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MONASTIC CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS

(YORKSHIRE)

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INTRODUCTION

The cases transcribed in this volume are drawn from the Class "Early Chancery Proceedings" in the Public Record Office.

The documents of the Proceedings are in the form of oblong strips from nine or ten inches to upwards of two feet in width but usually not more than four or five inches deep. The strips are now arranged in "Bundles" in a rough chronological order; the original arrangement for storage would appear to have been somewhat similar, that is, in bundles secured by strings or cords passing through a hole pierced near the left end of each strip. The effect of this has been that the right-hand end of the strip, and the whole of the top and the bottom strip of each bundle, has been more exposed to damage by handling, damp, dirt, etc., than the other parts, and therefore has become in many cases mutilated or illegible. Further, as the strings wore out or broke, the loosened documents were gathered up and re-assembled in faulty order. It is generally possible, however, to decide an approximate date by reference to the Chancellor to whom the Plea was addressed, or from internal evidence. The former method fails in the case of the earlier bundles, many of which must be calendared under a general description of "XIV and XV Centuries."

The Pleas here transcribed do not add anything to our knowledge of Chancery procedure. In the majority of instances there is one document only for each case, the original Plea of complaint to the Lord Chancellor, but in a few instances the 'replication' of the defendant is attached, and even, as in Numbers 11, 46, 50, and 116, a further allegation and defence, together with warrants to, and certificates by, those taking evidence on commission, so forming the whole material necessary to the preparation of the case. In no instance is there any record of the result of the Plea.

There are in all 173 cases, relating to 45 monastic houses, 4 Colleges and 4 Hospitals, and extending over a period of about 150 years, from late XIV Century to A.D. 1540. The range of offences is wide, but most relate, naturally, to property; the most numerous class is that relating to illegal detention of documentary evidence, with a total of 64 instances. Of these 64 no less than 58 are brought against the monastic houses: this is not to imply that the charges were invariably justified. Crimes of violence, again perhaps naturally, are more numerous in the early part of the period, where good examples of the evils of 'maintenance' may be found. One of the earliest and perhaps the most interesting cases appears to be that of the siege of Meaux Abbey

(No. 80), but interesting and often picturesque details are numerous, as in No. 25. Good instances of riot and violence are Nos. 38, 59, 60, 41, 150, and 151, while 78 mentions a mass poaching raid on Upsall Park, led by the prior of Marton in person, and 37 and 39 give cases of 'maintenance.' Two Pleas refer to monasteries after dissolution, 23 and 51 (the more interesting), and 168 gives details of the establishment of St. Leonard's Hospital, York. The turbulence and disquiet of contemporary life in districts remote from official control are clearly enough illustrated, but more valuable perhaps is the light thrown on the behaviour of the heads of religious Houses and on their relations with their secular neighbours. The result generally is to create an impression rather unfavourable than favourable to the monasteries: the frequency of the complaint concerning detention of evidences has an unfortunate effect, and charges of sharp practice or dishonesty are both common and flagrant, as in 9, 12, 66, 77, and 118. In few cases is the defence recorded. Such information as appears on the internal condition of the monasteries generally implies a rather unsatisfactory state, whether it is in cases where the house is struggling against secular elements or against the steadily increasing pressure of the contemporary world, as in 4 and 5, or in those brought by a community against a corrupt prior or Master, as in 110, 115, 117. But the object of this volume is not to plead a case either for the monasteries or against them; either might be easy: both would be definitely improper here. There is much of topographical or general value, on which it is impossible here to comment in detail, but few glimpses of a wider historical scene, except incidentally, as in the reference to the Richmond contingent at Flodden Field, in 31.

The equivocal position of being the Order most involved in litigation belongs to the Augustinian Canons Regular; Nostell with 12 cases and Bridlington with 11 head the whole list, while even the comparatively small and poor house of Healaugh Park appears in 5. Indeed, it may be supposed that legal business such as that implied in these Chancery Pleas may have contributed not a little to embarrass monastic finances, since of the 53 religious establishments in Yorkshire represented here, each, on a rough average, appeared in Chancery once in every ten years of the forty preceding the Dissolution; and this quite apart from other legal business.

The documents are reproduced as in the original, except that the spelling has been carefully modernised; for place-names, and for proper names generally, the original form has been retained. The construction of phrases and sentences has not been altered, except that 'the above....,' 'the said....,' 'the aforesaid....' and similar forms have been omitted for conciseness wherever clearness of sense allowed. From considerations of space, also, the common formulae of beginning and ending the Plea have generally been omitted, but a typical example of each is given here :—

The Address (No. 172)—

> To the most Reverend Father in God our most especial and singular good Lord Thomas the Archbishop of York and Chancellor of England.

The Beginning of the Plea (No. 114)—

> In his most humble and lamentable wise sheweth and complaineth unto your good and gracious lordship your poor Orator and continual Bedeman Robert Flynt.....

The End of the Plea (No. 20)—

> ..... the certain number of which evidences, writings, and muniments is to your said Orators unknown, wherefore they can maintain no action for the having of them by course of the Common Law; In consideration of the premises that it may please your said Lordship to grant a writ of Sub pena to be directed to the foresaid William prior of Burlyngton commanding him by the same to appear before the King in his Chancery at a certain day upon a pain [by your Lordship to be limited] to answer to the premises and take therein such further direction as shall be according to justice. And this at the reverence of God and in the way of charity.

It may be of interest to extract here a list of those heads of Houses whose names do not seem to be included in lists previously published.

Hull, Charterhouse ..	1486-93 ..	Ralph.
	1500-1501 ..	William.
Killingwoldgrave Hospital	after 1524 ..	Christopher Wilson, Master.
Malton Priory	1532/3 ..	William.
Marton Priory ..	before 1436	Thomas.
Nostell Priory	1486-93 or 1504-15	John [?].
Nun Monkton Priory ..	1480-83 ..	Elizabeth.
Pontefract Priory ..	1504-1515 ..	Richard Hawe.
Pontefract, Trinity College	1467-70 or	John Lathom, Master.
	1479-82	James Clapham, Master.
Ripon, St. Mary Magdalene Hospital	1493-1500 ..	Thomas Gyvendale, Master.
York, Austin Friars ..	1506 ..	William Bewyk.
Holy Trinity Priory	1504-15 ..	Robert Halowes.

The chief difficulties arise in the cases of Bridlington Priory and Pontefract Priory. In the case of the former the list of priors accepted by Baildon reads :—

John de Twenge.
William de Driffield.
John de Bridlington, 1366.
William de Newbold, 1379.
John de Giseburne, 1420, 1423.
Robert Ward, 1429.

John de Twenge is the prior also known as (St.) John of Bridlington. William de Driffield and John de Bridlington, 1366, are intruders here, for both were priors of Kirkham, not of Bridlington.[1] In their place we have a prior John Qweldryk (Wheldrake), who is first mentioned in the Papal Letters (P.R.O. Calendars, Lat. Regest., vol. LVIII) as prior on 8 Kal Jun. 1398. From No. 12 in the present volume we find that John Qweldryk was still prior in the early part of 1416, and was succeeded by John de Giseburne. A fresh complication is that the Papal Letters under the date 15 Oct. 1409 record the well-known grant of mitre and ring to a prior 'Thomas,' who is otherwise unknown. The combined effect of the Papal Letter of 1398 with the Chancery Plea is strongly to suggest that 'Thomas' is a clerical error. The setting forward by this Plea of the date of John de Giseburne's priorate to 1416 is corroborated by two entries in the Chartulary of Bridlington Priory (not transcribed by Lancaster in his edition, as they are on the fly-leaves of the MS.); the first records that on 3 Oct. 1416, John Giseburne, '*occasione nove creacionis nostre in priorem*,' granted a pension to William Staynesdrope; the second, on the same folio (351d), tells that on 4 Aug. 1418 John de Gysburn did homage, in the Chapter-house of the Friars Preacher of Beverley, for the Bridlington lands in Lincolnshire, to Geoffrey de Burton, abbot of Thornton. An entry in the Patent Rolls (5 Hen. VI pt. 1. m. 13. d.) takes on this priorate to 14 Feb. 1426, and it seems likely that the interval between the death of John de Giseburne on 22 April 1429 and the accession of Robert Ward was short. Our corrected order now stands :—

John de Thwing (St. John of Bridlington), †1379.
William de Newbold, 1379-*c.* 1397.
John Qweldryk, *c.* 1398-1416.
John de Giseburne, 1416-1429.
Robert Ward, 1429-1444.

[1] The first to point out this error seems to have been F. Ross, in his "History of Driffield."

A second group of little problems meets us slightly later where the old lists give us :—

Robert Brystwyk, 1472-1488.
John Curson, 1488-1498.
Robert Danby, 1498-†1506.

It is certain that Robert Brystwyk died in 1493, for his grave-slab is preserved in Bridlington Priory Church. But it is also certain that his priorate ended some years earlier, for the Patent Rolls give John (presumably Curson) as prior in 1485 and 1486. He was still prior in 1497. The dates of the priorate of Robert Danby are shaken by two facts. In MS. Cosin V. v. 19 at Durham University, a MS. written somewhere about 1520 by a canon of Bridlington as a common-place book, there is a copy of a deed between Kirkham Priory and Bridlington, dated 1503, which gives 'Thomas' as prior of Bridlington. Again, where the lists state that Danby died in 1506, Bodleian MS. Digby 53 gives a copy of the inscription on his tombstone with the date 5 Nov. 1507.

In the case of Pontefract Priory there is less difficulty. The order of priors in Baildon gives :—

Nicholas Hall, 1452.
John Flint, 1499.
Richard [Brown], 1507, 1520.

Pleas 110 and 113 in this volume make it clear that the correct order is :—

Nicholas Hall,
Richard Brown,
John Flint,
Richard Hawe,

of whom the last-named is apparently unrecorded previously.

It would be impossible to end these notes without acknowledging gratefully the encouragement and ready help received from Mr. Charles T. Clay, F.S.A., throughout all the preparation of this volume.

J. S. PURVIS.

Bridlington, October, 1933.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS VOLUME.

E.C.P. 57. 9.	Early Chancery Proceedings, Bundle 57, Number 9.
C.I.M.	Chancery Inquisitions (Miscellaneous) (Public Record Office Calendars).
Baildon	Y. A. S. (Record Series), Vol. XVI, "Monastic Notes, Vol. I."

Monastic Chancery Proceedings

Acaster College.

1. E.C.P. 940. 15 and 16. [*English*]

940. 15. [*c.* A.D. 1540].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Lord Audeley and Lord of Wallden and Lord Chancellor of England.

Sheweth and complaineth unto your right honourable lordship your poor orator and daily bedesman William Alcocke provost of the College of Acaster and the fellows of the same That whereas Willm. Alkoke provost of the College of Akaster in the County of Yorke aforesaid are seised in their demesne as of fee in the right of their house of and in three hundred acres of land in the town and fields of Akaster aforesaid, so that all charters evidences muniments and writings concerning the lands of right ought to appertain and belong to the provost and fellows of the College aforesaid for the maintenance and preservation of the title of the lands, So it is right honourable lord, that certain charters deeds evidences and writings touching and concerning the right title and interest of the lands be come to the hands and custody of one Marmaduke Vavester gent. and one Willm. Tayte of Akaster in the County of Yorke aforesaid, by colour of having whereof Marmaduke and William Tayte have not only often and sundry times said that they the aforesaid complainants should never have the evidences deeds [*etc.*] but that they the foresaid defendants would sell them to their adversaries only to trouble vex and unquiet the provost and fellows of the College, But also said that they would convey estates after such manner that they the provost and fellows should never enjoy it quietly, Intending thereby utterly to disherit your beseechers in the premises, against all right equity and good conscience, In consideration whereof forasmuch as your orators know not the number or certainty of the deeds charters evidences and writings nor wherein they be contained, whether in bag box or chest sealed or unsealed locked or unlocked, By reason whereof your orators can have no remedy thereof against Marmaduke Vavester and William Tayte by the due order of the common law it may please your good lordship to direct the King's honourable writ of *Subpena* to Marmaduke and

William Tayte, them commanding by the same personally to appear before the King in his Chancery at Westminster, at a certain day in the writ to be contained, then and there to make answer to the premises And your orators shall daily pray to God for your prosperous estate long to continue.

940. 16. *Townley Brokes*

The Answer of Marmaduke Vavosor and William Carre in the bill named William Tayte to the bill of Complaint of William Alcoke and his brethren named provost and fellows of the College of Acaster.

The said defendants say by protestation that the bill of complaint is only feigned of malice to the intent to put to cost trouble and vexation the defendants dwelling within the County of Yorke, Whereas the King's honourable Council there continually remaining hath power and authority to hear and determine any matter contained in the bill, to the jurisdiction whereof the defendants pray to be remitted, Nevertheless if the defendants shall be put to further answer by protestation, not knowing anything material contained in the bill to be good and true but only for very answer, they say and every of them severally say that the complainants are not seised of 300 acres of land in the right of the College in their demesne as of fee in the town and fields of Acaster nor of any part thereof nor that there is any such College there, And further the defendants say and every of them say that one Thomas Styllynton was seised of a certain capital messuage and of one hundred acres of land in Acaster Selbye or there about of a lawful estate of inheritance and so seised died, after and by whose death the premises descended and came and by right ought to descend and come to one John Styllynton, son and heir to Thomas Styllynton, by reason whereof John Styllynton entered into the premises and thereof was seised of a like estate of inheritance and took the profits lawfully, and so being seised of the premises amongst other things did give and grant the premises to William Hungate the younger and to other to the use of John Styllynton and Anne ['An'] then his wife and to the heirs of John in fee, after which feoffment John Styllynton at the sufferance of his feoffees took the profits of the premises unto the day of his death, which death was about 9 years past, and John Styllynton had issue in lawful matrimony with a farmer [? former] wife one Thomas Styllynton, and after that John died and Agnes his wife him overlived and is yet living and hath taken to husband Marmaduke Vavasor one of the defendants, which Marmaduke taketh the profits of the premises in the right of Anne, and Thomas son and heir of John Styllynton is within age and in ward of the King's Majesty, the reversion.....is now in.....right of Thomas Styllynton by the Statute made in the 27th [?] year of the reign of our most

dread sovereign lord King Henry the VIII, of the which Thomas Styllynton Marmaduke Vavasor.....forasmuch as Thomas is within age prayeth that process may demur unto such time as Thomas come to the age of 21 years, without that William Alkoke is priest of the College of Acaster or that.....by the name of provost and fellows of Acaster and without that the complainants or any of them is seised in their demesne as of fee in the right of their house of 300 acres of land in the town and fields of Acaster or of any parcel thereof, as is untruly surmitted by their bill or that they have any houses called a College in Acaster, and without that there was any such words betwixt the complainants and the defendants concerning the.....or redelivery of any evidences charters muniments or writings as is further untruly surmitted by the bill, and without that the defendants or either of them hath any deeds muniments charters or writings.....or concerning any lands or tenements in Acaster Selbye other than such as maintain the foresaid estate made to Willm. Hungate and to other to the use aforesaid as is aforesaid, which Marmaduke Vavasor inst.—....the writing [?] of for the preservation [?] of the same estate, And without that any other thing material contained in the bill other than such as by this answer is sufficiently confessed and avoided denied or traversed is true. All which matters the defendants are ready to aver as this Court shall award and pray to be discharged with their costs and charges sustained in this behalf.

Basedale Priory.

2. E.C.P. 658. 32. [*English*]

[A.D. 1529-1532].

To — — — Sir Thomas More Kt., Lord Chancellor.

In most humble wise complaining sheweth — — — Richard Marke yeoman that where one Dame Agnes Thomlynson[1] late prioress of the house and monastery of Besdale in the County of York and the convent of the same by their deed Indented sealed with their common seal did demise and let to farm unto one William Chambers and Alice his wife the lordship and farm of Colby with the appurtenances in the County of York to have and to hold the same to William and Alice for the term of 41 years yet not finished by virtue whereof William and Alice were possessed of

[1] Prioress A.D. 1497 to ?,

the lordship by reason of the lease And after William died, after whose death Alice was possessed of the same by reason of the survivor and after took to husband one Richard Croft of Myton in the said county gentleman and after Alice made Richard her husband her executor and died after whose death Richard was possessed of the lease and made his executors William Croft and Anthony Croft his sons and died after whose death William and Anthony were possessed of the lease as executors of Richard their father executor of Alice, and so possessed William and Anthony granted and demised all their term and interest in the premises with the appurtenances to your orator By reason whereof your orator was thereof possessed peaceably and quietly by the space of 3 years So it is good lord that of late one Elizabeth[1] being now prioress of the monastery and James Typpynge William Robynson Thomas Robynson John Lasyngby John Both William Wylson and Bryan Cotton with other evil disposed persons of their perverse cruel and evil disposed mind contrary [to] justice right and good conscience and also by the procurement and commandment of the prioress have not only taken from your orator by force and strong power the deed indented of the lease ensealed with the common seal of the monastery of Besdale and the seal thereof defaced and broken but also have caused deeds of leases to be made of the premises ensealed with the common seal of the monastery bearing elder date than the date of lease made unto your orator by reason whereof your orator hath not only divers and sundry times been greatly vexed and unquieted for the occupation and possession of the same but is like thereby to lose his term And also of late hath.. [*torn*; ? unl....] entered into the farmhold and the beasts of your orator slain and utterly destroyed and other profits of the same have taken and diverse mares and kine of your orator have so chased that divers have lost their calves and the mares their foals and divers of the beasts have died and [been] put in jeopardy of their lives by reason of such unlawful chasing of his cattle and driving them into places unknown where your orator by replevy nor other order of the common law could have no deliverance of his cattle, contrary to such order and decree as hath been taken for the occupation of the farm by the King's honourable Council abiding in Yorkeshyre And also for such sums of money as Richard Marke hath paid and tendered to the prioress for farm of the lands the prioress hath refused to make for the same acquittance to Richard for his discharge Intending by the same utterly to expulse your orator from the farm In consideration whereof forsomuch as your orator hath no remedy by order and course of the common law for the deed and other the premises but is like thereby utterly to lose and to be excluded of his term And also for that your orator is a very poor man and not of ability to sue the common law for his injuries and wrongs And also for that the prioress and other

[1] Elizabeth Rowton, prioress 1527 to 1536.

the defendants be of such power and might in the County of York that your orator can have no justice executed against them — — — [*Plea for writs* sub pena *severally*].

Pledges : John Felton of London, maltman.
Rich. Farby of the same, sherman.
John Boys

— — — on the Morrow of the Purification of our Blessed Lady next.

E.C.P. 658. 33. [*English*]

The answer of James Typpyng William Robynson Thomas Robynson John Lasenby John a Bothe and Brian Cotton to the bill of complaint of Richard Markes.

The said defendants say that the matters comprised in the bill against them if they were true as they be not they be matters determinable at the common law and not within this honourable Court to the which matters by the law they nor any of them ought to make answer hereunto in this Court but pray for their cause to be dismissed out of the same with their reasonable costs by them and every of them sustained in that behalf by the wrongful vexation.

E.C.P. 658. 34. [*English*]

The answer of Elizabeth prioress of the monastery of Besdale to the bill of complaint of Richard Marke.

The said Elizabeth saith that the bill is insufficient and uncertain to be answered unto and that the matter therein contained is feigned and imagined by Richard Marke for vexation and trouble and for no other cause And also that if the matters expressed in the bill against the prioress were true as they be not they plainly do appear to be determined at the common law and not within this honorable Court and so she is not bound by the law to make answer thereunto in this Court but prayeth that she may be dismissed out of the same with her reasonable costs and the advantage thereof at all times to her saved If she shall be compelled to make answer for the declaration of the truth she saith that she knew not that Agnes late prioress of the monastery and her convent named in the bill by deed indented under the convent seal did let unto William Chambre and Agnes his wife named in the bill the lordship of Colbey with the appurtenances in the said county for term of 41 years as in the bill of complaint is surmitted, and she thinketh perfectly that there was never none other lease made for she cannot find nor never saw the [? counterpart] of the Indenture within her monastery nor ever was instructed

by the convent and officers of the monastery that any such indenture or lease was ever made by the late prioress and for that cause the now prioress gave lawful warning unto Richard Marke that he should avoid the further occupying of the lordship because he had none interest in the same but from year to year at her pleasure which to do he would not but continueth in possession of the same and thereof hath taken the profits by the space of 2 years and more and will pay nothing therefor, the yearly farm of which is 6*li.* and so there was behind at Michaelmas last past 10*li.* which he detaineth and will not pay to the now prioress unless she would make such acquittance and discharge as he would himself devise And confirm such term as he claimeth in the Lordship which she will not do until he shew the indenture or otherwise prove prove[1] the lease without that the prioress and the others defendants named in the bill by the procurement of the now prioress by force strength or otherwise took from Richard Marke the deed indented concerning the lease And the seal thereof defaced or did break or caused other deeds or leases to be made of the premises ensealed with the convent seal of the monastery bearing elder date than the foresaid deed did in manner and form as in the bill is untruly surmitted and without that the now prioress hath slain the beasts of Richard or chased the mares and kine of Richard by reason whereof divers of them have died or been in jeopardy of their lives or ever drove them into any such place unknown contrary to the law or to any decree as in the bill is untruly surmitted or that any other thing material or answerable alleged in the bill other than in this answer is confessed avoided or traversed is true as in the bill is surmitted, all which matters Elizabeth shall be ready to aver and prove as this Court shall award and prayeth to be dismissed out of the same with her reasonable costs by her sustained in that behalf.

Beverley, St. John's Collegiate Church.

(Beverley Minster).

3. E.C.P. 3. 127. [*French*]

[A.D. 1399-1413].

To — — — Thomas, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth your poor orator John de Boynton one of the

[1] *Sic.*

Vicars of the Collegiate Church of St. John of Beverley and formerly one of the servants of John de Burton, clerk, Keeper of the Rolls of the Chancery of our Lord Richard late King of England the Second since the Conquest, whom God assoil, that whereas the said Suppliant in the time of the same late King was admitted to the prebend of St. Katherine in the Church aforesaid by virtue of a collation of the same late King to him made and was in..... and inducted canonically into the same, and his possession thereof continued until the prebend was evicted against him by the said John de Burton, by process of law, one John Seggefeld then to him pretending title and colour of right to the prebend where..... has taken the fruits and profits thereof all the time that your suppliant occupied it, and surmitting falsely of your suppliant that he defrauds him thereof.....by collusion and false covin between John de Burton and John Seggefeld, wherefor your suppliant has resigned voluntarily the said prebend to the use of John de Burton, and since that according to his power devising newly to trouble and molest and so far as he might utterly to destroy your suppliant.....he [John de Seggefeld] pursued a feigned action of trespass on account of what he said within the City of York, of which he was never guilty, and had him arrested in his habit within the church aforesaid and led him to prison, in despite of God, of Holy Church and of [? law], and has condemned him by inquest made in the said City by brief of *Nisi prius* in 16 marks, And thereupon process is made out of the Common Bench, and has kept the exigent against your Suppliant and thus in the brief [is made] outlaw to the final ad-..... and loss of his poor estate if there be not provision of remedy and succour by the help of your right sovereign and right gracious lordship, May it please your lordship to consider the great wrong and injury done to your suppliant in this behalf, and how John de Burton by pure good and just title had and occupied the prebend during his life, And to cause John Seggefeld to appear before you at a certain day by you to be limited in order that good and reasonable agreement may be made in this matter to indemnify your Suppliant in your right honourable presence or before other persons to be limited according to your very wise discretion. By God and in the way of charity.

Beverley, Friars Minor.

4. E.C.P. 22. 183. [*English*]

[A.D. 1452-53, or possibly 1494-1500].

To — — — the Cardinal and Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseech the Warden of the Friars Minor of Beverley and the convent of the same house within the County of York your gracious lordship that where one Sir Geoffrey Aguyllun of Besewyk within the same county sometime gave to William Danyell of Lekyngton and Luce his wife and to their heirs and their assigns his capital messuage and a place before the gate of the same messuage, 14 tofts and 2 carucates of land within the town and fields of Besewyk aforesaid to the intent that they, their heirs and assigns at the Friars Minor in Beverley within the said County being yearly of their own proper costs six times in the year should feed, and afterwards William and Luce the said gift ratifying ['reatynge'] by their deed, the which your orators have ready to show, granted for them their heirs and their assigns *honeste curialiter* and well and competently of their proper costs yearly to feed at Beverley everlastingly all the Friars Minor the which for time there should be by six days of the year, that is to say the day of the Purification of Our Lady St. Mary, the day of the Annunciation of Our Lady, the day of the Assumption of Our Lady, the day of the Nativity of Our Lady, the day of the Conception of Our Lady and the day of St. Francis, or else the days next after the days aforesaid; and if so be that they fail of the same alms, then by their deed they granted for them, their heirs and their assigns to give unto the Friars to their vesture or else to other their necessaries 10*s*. of money every day of Our Lady St. Mary and the day of St. Francis aforesaid; to the which to be done well and truly they bound them, their heirs and assigns with 14 tofts and 2 carucates of land aforesaid and over that by their said deed they prayed Almighty God, the Blessed Virgin our Lady St. Mary and all the Saints of God that the grievous ire and the evil vengeance of our Lord God should come upon them, their heirs and assigns there if by any manner of art or engine they do not the aforewritten, against the tenour of the aforesaid writing that they do; also touching the holy Evangelists for their heirs and their assigns all the aforewritten truly for to do, with other divers pains as it more plainly appeareth in the deed; of the which 10*s*. at every of the days aforesaid in recompense of the meat to be given to the Friars at the said days according to the deed of Geoffrey and the deed of William and Luce the said Friars have peaceably been possessed, that is to say, by all the time of the heirs of the said William and Luce to the time of Thomas Danyell, heir to the said William and Luce, father to Thomas Egle, the which Thomas Danyell was distract and out of his mind and so died; after whose decease the 14 tofts and 2 carucates of land descended to Thomas Egle as son and heir to Thomas Danyell, the which Thomas Egle now late died possessed of the said 14 tofts and 2 carucates of land, the which after his decease descended to Edmund Danyell as brother and heir to Thomas Egle, of the which 14 tofts and 2 carucates of land the said Edmund ever since the death of Thomas Egle hath been

possessed and yet is; And by all the time of Thomas Danyell and Thomas Egle and Edmund Danyell except 2 years, for the which 2 years the friars were satisfied by the hands of Brian Holme of Beverley by your grace's commandment, hath been behind, unpaid; the arrearage amounteth to the sum of 126*li.*, that is to say, after the rate of 60*s.* yearly during 42 years. Wherefore — — — [*etc*] — — — [*petition for writs* sub pena *against Edmund Danyell, who* "is a man greatly kinned and friended and of power and possessions."]

5. E.C.P. 286. 20. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504-1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Most humbly sheweth and complaineth unto your good and gracious lordship your poor and daily Bedeman the Warden of the house of the Friars Minor of Beverlay in the County of York that where one Geffray Aguyillun of Beswyk was seised of a capital messuage 14 tofts and 2 carows [*carucates*] of land in the town and fields of Beswyk in the County of York in his demesne as of fee and the same messuage [*etc*] gave to one William Daniell of Lokyngton and Lucia his wife and to their heirs and assigns for ever unto this use and intent that William Danyell his heirs and assigns yearly at their cost and and [*sic*] charges should feed all the Friars Minor being in Beverlay aforesaid 7 times in the year except on the day of their general Chapter And after the gift of the messuage and other the premises as is aforesaid William Daniell by a certain writing under his seal remaining with the orator Warden of the Friars granted for him his heirs and assigns honestly well and competently of their costs and charges yearly to feed at Beverlay all the friars minor there for the time being for ever by 7 days of the year, that is to say the day of the Purification, the day of the Annunciation, the day of the Assumption, the day of the Nativity, and the day of the Conception of our blessed Lady Saint Mary and in the day of St. Francis next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel or in the morrow next after the aforesaid days If the Friars in the said days of Our Lady and St. Francis by other men than by William Danyell his heirs or his assigns shall fortune at Beverlay to be fed And if it happened that William Danyell his heirs or his assigns should fail in the doing of the alms William willed and granted by the said writing for him his heirs and his assigns to give to the friars to their vesture or other necessaries 10*s.* of silver every day of our blessed Lady St. Mary and St. Francis aforesaid in which day the Friars were not fed by

William his heirs and his assigns as is aforesaid And William Danyell bound the lands and did also swear upon the holy Evangelists that he his heirs and his assigns should observe and perform the premises And so it was, gracious lord, that the poor Friars have had and been possessed of the alms to now of late to one William Danyell being owner of the lands denied the alms And after William died and so it is now that the messuages and other the lands which were granted for the alms be come to the hands of one Edmund Werdon of Beswyk, which Edmund hath married the wife of William Danyell And so it is that your Warden of the Friars hath often and many times charitably desired Edmund to give unto the poor Friars the alms which is a great part of their sustenance and.....which to do he hath refused and in no wise will do it And forasmuch as — — — [*etc. No certainty, therefore no remedy at the common law — — — Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : Willm. Farour of Lond.....
John Martin (?) of the same.
— — — on the Morrow of St. John Baptist next.

Note. Cf. Exchequer T.R. Ancient Deeds A.S. 398. [A.D. 1526] 'Declaration by Beverley Priory that whereas their house since its foundation by Stephen the Goldsmith, of whom no heir can be found, has fallen to ruin; and whereas by their rule they have nothing for their maintenance except by begging, they accept as their founder Thomas Lord Darcy Menell and Kaith, who intends to rebuild and maintain their house. Separate consent by Henry Aglionbie, B.D., prior.'

Bolton Priory.

6. E.C.P. 70. 48. [*English*]

[XIV or XV Century].
[*Rubbed and stained at right-hand end*].

Beseeches — — — the prior of Bolton in Craven that where one John Preston of York Ironmonger sued the house of the prior of Bolton in Craven.....[*illegible*].....stuff of iron and steel pertaining and belonging to husbandry for the which the prior was in debt to John in a certain sum of money, upon reckoning what it was the prior knew not at that time: because of the which John did arrest the prior at a certain time being in York and there John affirmed a plaint against the prior in York comprehending the [? double] value of money and more than the truth was indeed; the which sum of money the prior paid to John

before the prior might pass out of [? prison].....great deal as the prior paid to John.....

[*plea for writ* sub pena].

7. E.C.P. 70. 49. [*English*]

[XIV or XV Cent.]

This is the Answer of John Preston of York irenmonger to a bill of the prior of Bolton against him put.

The said John Preston saith that the bill against him put is not sufficient in law whereto he ought of right to answer; Nevertheless for declaration of the truth of the matter John saith that the prior bought divers goods of him and divers goods by his commandment the said John delivered to divers servants of the prior and to his use, that is to say stockfish, salt fish, oil, herring and iron with other goods, which parcels of goods John is ready to show by writing, and the which drew to the sum of 4*li.* 9*s.* 7*d.* of the which sum the prior had very notice and knowledge that it was due; and thereof was paid to John by the hands of the prior and by other his servants by his commandment at divers times 4*li.* 4*s.* 4*d.* and so there remains due to John 4*s.* 10*d.* and over that the said John saith that he never arrested nor made to be arrested the prior nor served no plaint against the prior nor the prior imprisoned by John nor never paid to John in person no money, nor the prior and John made never no such reckoning as it is surmitted, whereby it should be found that John should have received more money than was due of right to him, and that these matters be true John is ready to prove as the Court will award and promise to be dismissed.

8. E.C.P. 249. 78. [*English*]

A.D. 1501 or 1502.

To — — — Henry, Archbishop of Caunturebury and Keeper of the King's great Seal.

Meekly sheweth — — — Richard Malhom son and heir of one Alane Malhom how that Alane purchased certain messuages and lands in Estby and Emsawe in the County York in the Courts of one Christopher[1] then prior of the house of our Lady of Bolton holden at Emsawe to have the messuages and lands to Alan and

[1] Christopher Lofthouse, prior A.D. 1471 to 1482, or Christopher Wood, 1483 to 1493.

to his heirs, to be holden at the will of the Lord that is to say the prior and his successors priors according to the custom of that Court of Emsawe paying yearly to the prior or his successors a certain rent, of the which messuages and lands Alan for a certain fine paid in the Court of Emsawe according to the custom of the Court was admitted sole tenant of the messuages and lands to the prior and his successors to be holden in manner and form aforesaid as it plainly appeareth by the Court Roll of the Court by reason whereof Alan entered into the messuages and lands and occupied them, yearly paying the rent to Christopher then prior during his time and after that to one Thomas[1] his successor now being prior of the house of our Lady of Bolton, the space of 10 years or more, in the which time Alan made great costs upon the messuages and lands as in building and defencing of closes, which costs with the foresaid fine amounted to the sum of 20*li.*, and died After whose death your orator presented himself in the Court of Thomas now prior holden at Emsawe to have been admitted his tenant and to have and to hold the messuages and land of Thomas now prior in manner and form according as they were purchased But the Steward of the Court at the precept and commandment of Thomas now prior that denied contrary to right and good conscience cons-[*torn*: *probably* considering] that Alan father to your orator paid so much money for fine building and defencing in manner and form aforesaid. Wherefore please it — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Robert Malhom of London gentleman.
William Symson of the same yeoman.

Before the King in Chancery in xv days of Michaelmas next.

9. E.C.P. 483. 1. [*English*]

[A.D. 1518-1529].

To — — — Thomas Cardinal, Legate, Archbishop and Chancellor.

— — — complaineth — — — Thomas Clarke clerk That where one Richard Redmayne Esquire being right full patron of a chantry founded of 6 priests in the parish Church of Harwood in the County of York presented unto the chantry your orator who was thereunto admitted and inducted by Richard Moone[2] prior of the monastery of Bolton and unto the which chantry priests the prior and his predecessors have from time of the beginning of the chantry used and of right ought to pay unto every of the priests yearly for their stipends and salary 4*li.* And where of late your

[1] Thomas Otley, prior A.D. 1495-1513.
[2] Prior A.D. 1513 to 1540, when he surrendered the Priory.

orator was by Rich. Redmayne presented to the chantry as is aforesaid who by the prior was thereunto admitted and which presentment was in the King's Bench affirmed as of record there doth appear Nevertheless albeit that your orator hath yearly since the time of his admission unto the chantry which is by the space of 5 years required the prior to pay him his yearly stipend of 4*li.* yet he that to do hath always refused and yet doth refuse against all right and good conscience And for the which your orator hath no remedy by the course of the common law forasmuch as he knoweth not whether the yearly salary had his beginning by grant made by any of the predecessors of the prior out of the monastery, composition made between any of the predecessors of the prior and the ancestors of Richard Redmayne or by any other mean nor knoweth not where the writings concerning the same are become nor where they do remain unless that they be in the monastery For the which cause your orator can not have any action for recovery of the yearly stipend at the common law — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Rich. Rolff of London, yeoman.
John Tanner of the same, yeoman.

— — — in the Quindene of Easter next.

10. E.C.P. 670. 41. [*English*]

[A.D. 1529-1532].

To the right honourable Sir Thomas More, Kt., Lord Chancellor.

— — — sheweth and complaineth — — — your daily orator Richard Redmayne Esquire that where Richard is now possessed and seised of and in the Castle of Harwood with the appurtenances in the County of Yorke and of and in the advowsons of three chantries in the parish Church of Harwoode in the said County appendant and belonging unto the Castle in his demesne as of Fee by good and just title of inheritance to him descended and come So it is good Lord that divers evidences writings ordinances and confirmations concerning the advowson of the chantries and other the premises are come to the hands and possession of Richard Mone prior of the monastery of our Blessed Lady of Bolton in the said County And your orator hath divers and many times required the prior to make to him delivery of the evidences writings ordinances and confirmations which to do the prior hath always refused and yet doth refuse contrary to all right and good conscience — — — [*etc. No remedy at the common law, because no certainty of the number etc. of the deeds — — — Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

11. E.C.P. 728. 2. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533-1538].

To — — — Sir Thomas Audley, Kt., Lord Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth — — — Richard[1] prior of the monastery of our blessed Lady of Bolton in Craven in the County of York that where your suppliant bargained and sold unto one John Chapman of the City of York merchant 62 fothers of lead which were fined and made of the own proper ore of your suppliant for 248*li.* which is after the rate and value of 4*li.* the fother, Which 62 fothers of lead John Chapman had and converted them to his own use, of which sum John Chapman well and truly contented and paid to your suppliant 165*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* parcel of the said sum And afterward John Chapman made and declared his last will and testament and by the same ordained and made one Doctor Clabroke and Sir William Moke clerk to be his executors and died, 72*li.* 13*s.* and 4*d.* residue of the sum of 248*li.* being unpaid to your orator, After whose death all the goods and chattels of John Chapman which were to the value of 1000*li.* and above came to the hands and possession of the executors And also the executors received and took the profits and revenues of all the lands and inheritance of the said Chapman which were put in feoffment towards the performing of the last will and testament of Chapman. And afterward Doctor Claybroke deceased after whose decease William Moke had and yet hath the sole administration of the goods and chattels of Chapman and also taketh the profits of the lands and tenements aforesaid by reason of the last will and testament, And notwithstanding that your orator at divers and sundry times since the decease of John Chapman hath required and desired Dr. Claybroke and William Moke during the life of Dr. Claybroke and also hath required William Moke since the decease of Dr. Claybroke to content and pay unto him the said 82*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for the debt and duty of John Chapman and yet William and Dr. Claybroke in the lifetime of the Doctor and also William since the decease of the Doctor at all times hath and yet doth deny the payment thereof contrary unto right and good conscience, And forasmuch as your orator hath no manner of obligation specialty nor writing of John Chapman for the payment of the sum of 82*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* he hath no manner of remedy to demand nor ask the same of William Moke as executor unto John Chapman by the course of the common law nor other wise except that your lordship's favour and helpe be shewed to him in that behalf Wherefore pleaseth it your good lordship the premises tenderly considered to grant a writ of sub pena to be directed to Sir William

[1] Richard Moone, prior A.D. 1513 to 1540.

Moke clerk commanding him by the same upon a certain pain and at a day certain by your good lordship to be thereunto assigned and appointed to appear before your good lordship in the King's high Court of Chancery there to make answer unto the premises and your orator shall continually pray to Almighty God for your good lordship long and prosperously to endure.

Wm. Conyngesby.

E.C.P. 728. 3. [*English*]

The answer of William Mooke clerk to the bill of complaint of Richard prior of the monastery of our blessed Lady of Bolton in Craven.

The said William saith that the bill of complaint is untrue uncertain and insufficient in the law to be answered unto and the matter therein contained feigned and imagined of malice without ground or cause reasonable to the intent to put the defendant to unjust vexation costs and expenses And further the defendant saith by protestation not knowing that John Chapman left unto his executors in goods and chattels to the value of a thousand pounds nor knowing that the executors should take or receive the profits of certain lands for the performance of the last will and testament of John Chapman And for answer the defendant saith that the complainant bargained and sold unto John Chapman three score and two fothers of lead ore for the sum of eight score and five pounds six shillings and eight pence Which was after the rate of three and fifty shillings and five pence the fother, for the which 62 fothers of lead ore John Chapman paid unto the complainant at the delivery thereof 165*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* according to the bargain in full satisfaction and payment of the bargain without that the complainant bargained and sold to John Chapman 62 fothers of lead for the sum of two hundred and seven and forty pounds or that the complainant sold unto John Chapman any fothers of lead after the rate or value of 4*li.* the fother or that John Chapman ever had the 62 fothers of lead or any part thereof of the complainant or converted the same lead or any part thereof to his own use as in the bill is untruly surmitted or that John Chapman at the time of his death owed unto the complainant the sum of 82*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* or any part thereof as in the bill is untruly surmitted or that anything material contained in the bill not by this answer sufficiently answered confessed and avoided or traversed is true all which matters the defendant is ready to prove as this honourable Court will award and prayeth to be dismissed out of the same with his reasonable costs and expenses for his wrongful vexation costs and trouble sustained in this behalf.

E.C.P. 728. 4. [*English*]

Hynde Cholmeley Conyngsby

The Replication of Richard prior of the Monastery of our blessed Lady of Bolton to the answer of William Moke clerk.

The said prior saith that his bill of complaint is certain and sufficient in the law to be answered unto and that the matter therein contained and specified is condensed and grounded upon a just and lawful cause of complaint and not feigned nor imagined to any such intent and purpose as is in the said answer supposed And furthermore saith that he bargained and sold unto John Chapman the said 62 fothers of lead for the sum of 248*li.* and that the same John by his last will and testament ordained and made William Moke to be his executor and died, the sum of 82*li.* one part of the said sum not being contented nor paid unto the prior And furthermore saith and averreth in everything as he before in his bill hath alleged without that that the now complainant bargained and sold unto John Chapman the 62 fothers of lead ore for the sum of 165*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* or that the said Chapman paid unto the now complainant 165*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for the lead ore in manner and form as is before in the said answer before is supposed And without that that any thing material or answerable alleged against him in the answer other than is in this replication confessed avoided or traversed is true All which matters he is ready to aver as this Court will award and demandeth judgement and prayeth that the now defendant may be compelled by the order of this Court to content and pay unto him his said debt according to right and good conscience.

728. 5. [*English*]

The rejoinder of William Mooke clerk to the replication of Richard prior of the monastery of Bolton.

The said defendant saith that the bill and replication be untrue uncertain and insufficient in the law to be rejoined unto And the matter therein contained feigned and imagined to such intent and purpose as in the answer is alleged, And that the now complainant bargained and sold unto John Chapman the said 62 fothers of lead ore for the sum of 165*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* And that John Chapman paid unto the now complainant 165*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for the lead ore in manner and form as in the answer is alleged. And Further the defendant saith and averreth every thing to be true as in his bill is alleged without that the complainant bargained or sold 52 fothers of lead for the sum of 248*li.* or that John Chapman did owe at the time of his death the sum of 82*li.* or any part thereof

or that any thing material or effectual contained in the bill and replication not by this rejoinder sufficiently rejoined unto confessed and avoided or traversed is true All which matters the defendant is ready to prove as this honourable Court will award and prayeth as he before hath prayed in his answer.

Bridlington Priory.

12. E.C.P. 11. 86. [*French*]

[A.D. 1431-42, possibly 1467-1472; *but almost certainly nearest to* A.D. 1431].

To — — — the Bishop of Bath, Chancellor of England.

The very humble supplication of your orators William Lescrop Master of the Hospital of St. Leonard of York, and John Danyell, brother of the Hospital, executors of the will of Master William Fereby, clerk, that whereas one John Qweldryk[1] prior of Bridlington the 13 day of February 1412 at Brydlyngton in the County of York borrowed of Master William Fereby 200 marks of lawful money of England which were to come from the fruits and profits of his church, and for the security of the payment of the sum the prior and his convent were bound by their written bond to Master William to pay to him and his executors at the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist A.D. 1414; which Master William Fereby made William Dalton prior of the Abbey of Our Lady of York, John Gyseburn, fellow-canon of the prior of Bridlington now dead, and John Danyell the suppliant his executors, and died; after which death, because the day of payment of the bond was arrived the prior of Brydlyngton came to John Danyell at York (John Danyell then having the keeping of the bond) praying him to release him from the bond and grant to him and the convent longer time of payment on new security to be made by the prior and his convent on their Church for the sum contained in the bond assuring and promising them to make and to deliver to John Danyell and John Gyseburn then living two obligations new made by the prior and his convent within a month then next following, each of them containing the sum of 100 marks payable that is to say 100 marks by a bond payable at Easter and 100 marks by the other bond at the Feast of St. John Baptist A.D. 1416; whereupon John Danyell trusting in the promise of the prior granted to him day of payment of the 200 marks at the above

[1] The dates generally given for this prior are A.D. 1400 to 1408. These are apparently wrong. The question is discussed in the Introduction.

Feasts, which was two years after the day of payment of the bond made to the testator; And thereupon John Danyell at York delivered to the prior the bond for 200 marks with assent of John Gysburn, trusting that he would within the month so limited deliver to John Danyell the two bonds so to be made in accordance with his promise; And then the prior died, and the sum of 200 marks was not paid nor the two bonds made according to his promise; And since John now one of the suppliants as executors of William Fereby hath often required John now prior to perform the above promises and assurances or otherwise to re-deliver the bonds or to make payment of the 200 marks to John the suppliant, which he hath refused against right, good faith and conscience. Wherefore — — — [*etc.*; *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : { John Overton. / Rich. Clyff.

13. E.C.P. 38. 300. [*English*]

[A.D. 1433-1443].

To — — — the Bishop of Bath, Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth meekly your chaplain and orator Robert prior of Bridlyngton[1] that where he is seised in his demesne as of fee in the right of his church of Bridlington of 111 acres of moor and marsh with the appurtenances in Fraysthorp in the County of York, within the which moor and marsh the prior and his tenants at will of Fraysthorp now lately dug and caused to be dug ("grove and gart grave") and dried 40 cartfuls of turves and had made 20 cartfuls of hay and of thatch and dried it and stacked it upon the same ground there, on the 22nd day of June in the 12th year of the reign of K. Henry VI after the Conquest [A.D. 1434], Anthony Seyntguyntyn Esquire, Thos. Thornholm Esquire, Henry Skeryn gentleman, John Bryan vicar of the church of Burton Annas[2], with great multitude of people gathered unto them to the number of 60 persons and more armed and arrayed in manner of war and in manner of riot and insurrection against the King's peace came to Fraysthorp and there the turves with swords spades and other instruments hewed in small pieces and them and also the hay and thatch cast in pits and dikes, so that neither good nor profit came thereof but it was utterly destroyed, And also they menaced tenants of the prior, John Bowett and Thomas Bowett, and servants of the prior, William Thistylles, Thomas Capleman [? *Campl-*] and others, so that the tenants about the occupations of their tenures nor the servants about the service of the prior durst not go

[1] Robert Ward, prior A.D. 1429 to ? 1439.
[2] Now Burton Agnes.

nor intend; Like it to your gracious lordship to grant writs sub pena severally to be direct to Anthony, Thomas Thornholm, Henry Skeryn, and John Bryan to appear before you at a certain day and upon certain pain by you to be limited for to find sufficient security of peace to the prior, his servants and tenants, to answer of and for the riots and wrongs beforesaid, and them to amend after your wise discretion as good faith and conscience will be, considering that they be so great and so mighty of kin and of alliance and of other persons that be conferred unto them in this case that the prior can not nor may not make them find surety of peace in that country nor have remedy of them of the riots and wrongs by the course of the common law. At the reverence of God and by way of charity.

Pledges : Thomas Leder of Bridlyngton, yeoman.
Thomas Hewer of Dalton, yeoman.

14. E.C.P. 44. 263. [*English*]

[A.D. 1467-72; probably 1472].

To — — — the Bishop of Bath, Chancellor of England.

— — — beseecheth — — — Robert Alcok of London, goldsmith, and Thomas Austeyn of Stratford at the Bowe, baker, that where one Peris Ellard[1] late prior of Bridlyngton in the County of Yorkeschir sent his own servant William Clay, and household man to the late prior, unto your orators that they would do at the instance of the late prior so much as to be surety and undertake for one William Ecford, merchant of the town of Bridlyngton, unto John Ellys of London, Mercer, for the sum of 5*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and the late prior granted by the same servant and messenger unto your orators a forne [i.e., before] witness, as it is ready to prove, to save them harmless for the sum in pain of 40*li.*; It is so, gracious lord, that the day of payment of the sum of 5*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* is come and long time past, so we have paid and content the duty whereas we have sent over to the late prior for to content us according to his promise, and he denieth and bid us shew our specialty, and so we are without remedy at the common law of any action against the late prior for to be taken — — — [*etc.*; *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : { Rich. Lepyer of London yeoman and
Thos. Wynship of London, sherman.

[1] Or Hellerd, prior A.D. 1462 to 1471, when he retired with an ample corrody. For the grant of arms to this prior, see *Y.A.J.*, Vol. xvii, p. 110.

15. E.C.P. 54. 332. [*English*]

[A.D. 1475-80 and 1483-85].

To — — — the Bishop of Lincoln Chancellor.

Meekly beseecheth your gracious lordship Robert Ughtred kt Where Robert Ughtred his father whose heir he is delivered certain deeds evidences muniments and tallies concerning the inheritance of your suppliant to one Robert[1] prior of Bridlyngton safely to keep to the use of Robert the father and his heirs And afterward Robert the father died after whose decease your suppliant hath divers times required the prior to deliver the deeds evidences muniments and tallies And that to do he utterly refuseth contrary to all law and conscience And forasmuch as your suppliant cannot declare the certainty of the deeds evidences muniments and tallies he can not have his action by the common law But he is without remedy to his disheritance unless your gracious lordship be shewed to him in this behalf — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : John Waugh of London yeoman.
John Andemore of London yeoman.
— — — in the Quindene of Easter next.

Endorsed [*Latin*] :—

Memorandum that on the 13th day of November in the present year because the said Robert Ughtred before the King in his Chancery was often called and did not appear to say anything or to prove the matter specified within against the said Robert the prior of Bridlyngton Therefore it was considered by the Court of Chancery that the prior is dismissed out of the said Court without a day.

16. E.C.P. 281. 3. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504-1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth — — — Robert[2] prior of the Monastery of Our Lady of Bridlington in the County of York that where one Robert[3] late prior of the same place predecessor to your orator being parson of the parish and Church of Grynton in Swaldale in the same County which Church is appropriated to the monastery made ordained and deputed one John Yorke canon of the mon-

[1] Probably Robert Brystwyk, prior A.D. 1472 to 1484.
[2] Robert Danby, prior A.D. 1498 to 1506.
[3] Possibly Robert Brystwyk.

astery and vicar of the Church of Grynton his deputy and proctor to gather and receive all the tithes of the church, which John Yorke made and deputed under him one John Huchenson of Fremyngton in Swaldale aforesaid to gather and receive all the tithe lead within the parish which should belong to the monastery and thereof to make account and reckoning to the vicar And so it is gracious lord that John Huchenson upon a three years past hath received and gathered of certain lead belonging to your orator as parson of the church amounting to the value of 40*li.* [and above *inserted*] and after the vicar died and your orator hath often times required John Huchonson to deliver the lead which he refuseth to do And forasmuch as your orator hath no remedy herefor by course of the common law — — — [*etc.*] [*The last few lines including the plea for writ much torn*].

Pledges for prosecution : John B.....
Simo.....

Before the King in Chancery in 15 days of S. Hilary next.

17. E.C.P. 282. 16. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1504-1515].

[*according to the Bundle*; *but Prior Robert Willy's dates are generally given as* c. 1444-1454. *The true date is probably soon after* A.D. 1447]

To — — — my Lord of Canterbury, Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth meekly your good worship Robert Wylle prior of the Priory of Bridlington in the County of York to consider where one Thomas Pickering of Flamborough in the said County of his great.....-osed with force and arms, that is to say with swords staves bows and arrows, the 20th day of July in the year of our sovereign Lord the King that now is the 25th[1] with other evil doers and disturbers of the peace of our sovereign Lord the King to the number of 7 persons in..... in a messuage of the liberty and franchise of the..... Priory and despite of the Priory entered into the franchise of the Priory at Speton in the same County and with great violence .....-ned divers servants of the Priory in a cart of ..... Priory th-.....-en and made them draw in a like ..... out of a house of the Priory in Speton and in the franchise abovesaid, And so forth, And at another place in the same town and of the franchise aforesaid .....-rete-..... with swords and daggers drawn compelled and menaced to slay without they would fulfil their ..... And that cart there so took and kept out of the possession of the prior by a week .....-ing in great despite of the prior and damage of him of 100 marks. Whereupon the prior hath pursued Thomas at the com-

[1] This fixes the reign as that of K. Henry VI and the year therefore as 1447.

mon law, of the which pursuit he can have no remedy. forasmuch as Thomas is dwelling in covert in the lordship of Flamborough that no officer may do execution upon him there nor make him to answer the Prior in the premises as the law would. Wherefore — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

18. E.C.P. 285. 18. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1504-1515; *probably* 1504-1506].

To — -- — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

— — — sheweth — — — Thomas Bonde, the son and heir of Robert Bonde late of Brydlyngton in the County of York yeoman, which said Robert in his life was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in a tenement with certain lands thereunto belonging That is to say after the use and custom of the country called 4 oxgangs set and lying in Brydlyngton aforesaid And also another oxgang and a half in Wilstroppe in the aforesaid parish of Brydlyngton, with the appurtenances to the same belonging, And so thereof died seised After whose decease one Sir Robert Bryghtwyke[1] then being prior of the house and priory and lord of the fee took and seised as well your said orator as the said tenement with all his lands as ward unto the house and priory forasmuch as he was within age And so kept him there and received all the issues and profits of the tenement and lands by a long space, And so it is, gracious lord, all the evidences, charters and muniments concerning the said tenement and lands of very great [? *sc.* value] was delivered to one William Bonde uncle unto your orator safely to be kept to the use and behoof of your orator, then.....Cook and servant unto the Priory, the prior understanding that, he by subtle crafty and untrue means caused the said.....servant to deliver to him all the evidences and muniments, upon the which deliverance the prior of his more great.....caused your orator he so being of none age to seal a deed of his tenement and lands unto the prior and [*sc.* Convent] and their successors for evermore And thereupon one Thomas Mosse then being a canon and Cellarer there took possession livery ..... to the use and behoof of the priory and their successors for ever, and thereupon delivered unto your orator 5 marks for a bargain ..... him out of the place and by this deceitful means would disinherit your orator for ever, And your orator hath often [*sc.* times re-]-quired the now prior to redeliver unto him the said evidences, the which he always hath refused and yet refuseth against right ..... and good conscience, And forasmuch as your orator knoweth not the

[1] Robert Brystwick or Burstwick, prior A.D. 1472 to 1484. His gravestone is preserved in Bridlington Priory Church.

number nor contents of the evidences he is without [*sc.* rem-]-edy by the course of the common law of this land. Therefore the premises tenderly considered, it may please your grace to grant a writ of *sub pena* to be directed to Sir Robert Danby[1] now being prior, commanding him by the same to appear — — — [*etc.*]

Pledges for prosecution { John Bury of London, brewer, Philip Gough of London, yeoman.

Endorsed :—Let it be done before the King in his Chancery from Easterday next three weeks.

19. E.C.P. 469. 35. [*English*]

[A.D. 1518-1529; *probably in or near the latter year*].

To — — — Thomas Lord Cardinal, Legate *de latere*, Archbishop of York, Primate and Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — John Byrcham Robert Sawmon Bartholomew Storme and Robert Wyndell of Whitby in the County of York, fisher men, that where, gracious Lord, one William[2] now prior of Bridlington and one Elizabeth Dodys of Bridlington aforesaid, widow, four years past or thereabouts by one consent made unto the sea a certain ship of the portage of 25 ton there to fish, and the said ship being at the sea in fishing and after her whole fishing accomplished returned homewards unto and towards Bridlington and being upon the sea was encountered with a ship of war of France, which ship of France took the said ship; Whereupon the master and mariners of the ship being in the ship made intercession to the Frenchmen that they might be at their ransom and put in pledges for their ransom ship and fish; whereupon the Frenchmen concluded to take for the ransom of ship and mariners the sum of 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; and thereupon it was condescended by the Frenchmen that the master of the ship accompanied with certain mariners should go unto Whitby and so to send to Bridlington for the sum of 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and to put in pledges as is aforesaid; Whereupon the master departed from the ship and came unto Whitby, and there shewed unto your orators the misfortune of the ship and how that they should pay for their ransom the sum of 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and your orators sent at the instance of the master and mariners unto the prior of Bridlington and also unto Elizabeth Dode widow to know whether they would pay the 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* of and for the ship and mariners or not; Whereupon the prior and also Elizabeth instantly desired your orators that the ship and mariners might be ransomed and the sum of 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* paid, faithfully promising that they would see your orators truly satisfied of the sum of 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, at whose instance your orators

[1] Prior A.D. 1498 to 1506.
[2] Probably William Brownsfete or Bromflete, prior A.D. 1521 to *c.* 1528.

paid the 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* of and for the ransom of the ship; And after that, gracious lord, the ship was eftsoons taken with the Scots so that the possession came never unto the hands of your orators nor yet unto the hands of the prior nor of Elizabeth, And at such time, most gracious lord, your orators demanded of the prior and Elizabeth the sum of 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, which your orators at the instance of the prior and Elizabeth before had paid for the ship, the prior and also Elizabeth always utterly denied to pay and yet do, contrary to all right and good conscience forasmuch as the ship was eftsoons taken with Scots; And so your orators be without remedy to recover the 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* by the course of the common law, forasmuch as they have no specialty whereby they might demand the 22*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, unless your most merciful pity to them in this behalf be showed.

[*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Thomas Cromwell.

20. E.C.P. 513. 3. [*English*]

[A.D. 1518-1529].

To — — — the Archbishop of York, Cardinal and legate and also Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth — — — William Gambyll and Elen his wife and Joan Tomson single woman, the said Elen and Joan being Daughters and heires of John Tomson, that whereas the said John Tomson was seised in his demesne as of Fee of and in 2 messuages and of divers oxgangs of land containing 16 acres of land set and lying in Lyberston in the County of York, and John Tomson so of the premises seised of such estate as is aforesaid thereof died seised, After whose death the messuages and other the premises descended and of right ought to descend to the said Elen and Joan as daughters and heirs of the aforesaid John Tomson their Father; And so it is, gracious lord, divers evidences, writings, and muniments concerning the messuages and other premises be come to the hands and possession of William[1] prior of Burlyngton, of whom your orators have divers times desired to have delivery of the evidences, writings and muniments, which to deliver to them the prior hath always refused; and by colour of having of the writings, evidences and muniments the prior hath entered into the messuages and other the premises and thereof hath wrongfully taken the profits by a long time from your orators; the certain number of which evidences, writings and muniments is to your orators unknown, Wherefore they can maintain no action

[1] William Brownsfete.

for the having of them by course of the common law — — — [*Plea for writs* sub pena].

John Drengell.

Pledges for prosecution :—
{Richard Prat of London, grocer.
{Peter Mason of the same, yeoman.

21. E.C.P. 575. 16. [*English*]

[A.D. 1518-1529].

To — — — Thomas, Cardinal, Legate, Archbishop and Chancellor.

In full humble wise sheweth and complaineth — — — Elen the prioress of the priory [of] Stykeswold within the County of Lincoln that where the prior of the priory of Bredelington in the County of York was possessed of and in the parsonage of Bamborow within the County of Lincoln and of all manner of tithes and glebe lands belonging to the same parsonage in his demesne as of fee in the right of the priory as of advowson impropriated to the priory and so being seised in consideration that the prioress had not corn of her own sufficient to find her house of Stykeswold and for divers other good considerations by writing sufficient in the law demised and granted the parsonage tithe and glebe land to the prioress and her successors to have and to hold the parsonage from the Feast of the Annunciation of our Lady last past unto the end and Term of 20 years then and now next coming yielding yearly six pounds thirteen shillings fourpence therefor at the Feasts of the Purification and Lammas day by even portions And also granted to the prioress all evidences compositions and writings concerning the parsonage and other the premises or any part of the same during the term So it is most gracious lord that one Richard Salmon of Bamborow in the County of Lincoln yeoman hath attained the possession of divers evidences compositions and writings concerning the parsonage glebe lands and tithes and by colour of having of the evidences compositions and writings hath entered into the parsonage and taketh the tithes and profits belonging to the parsonage and unlawfully keepeth the prioress from the possession and occupation of the parsonage and other the premises, And your oratrix being prioress of the said poor house is not able to sue nor trey the common law with Richard, for that he is so friended and maintained by great men in those parts contrary to all right and good conscience, And your oratrix hath often and many times required Richard as well to make to her delivery of the evidences compositions and writings concerning the premises and also to suffer her to have take and perceive the profits of the same which to do Richard hath always

refused and yet doth refuse contrary to all right and good conscience — — — [*no certainty of the number, etc., of the deeds* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : { William Holt of London, gentleman. John Hall of the same, yeoman.

— — — on the morrow of the Ascension next.

Hall.

22. E.C.P. 881. 25. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533–36].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — — shew — — — John Robynson Simon Arundell John Tomson and Willm. Metcalff as that one John Robynson of Cogden in Sawdaill[1] within the County of York yeoman deceased in his life time was sole ['soull'] seised of and in one tenement with divers acres of arable land and pasture to the number of 22 acres and more with common and other commodities and profits thereto belonging and pertaining set lying and being within the township and fields of Cogden And John Robynson so thereof being sole seised held the tenement and other the premises of the prior and convent of Byrdlyngton within the same County of Yorke as of the manor of Grynton by tenant right according to the custom of the same, whereas that the custom is and hath been time out of mind of man that the next of kin according to the common law shall have the lands and tenements doing the whole customs and services thereunto belonging and pertaining, the which tenement and other the premises immediately after the death of John Robynson descended and came and of right ought to descend and come unto your orators as unto cousins and heirs of John Robynson according to the custom of the tenant right, that is to say unto John Robynson one of your orators son of Maud daughter and one of the heirs of John Robynson and unto Simon Arundell son of James Arundell son of Joan daughter and heir of John Robynson and unto John Tomson son of Humphrey Tomson son of Agnes daughter and heir unto John Robynson and also unto Willm. Metcalff son of Elen another daughter and heir unto John Robynson. So it is most gracious and honourable lord that albeit though that your orators and beseechers have often and many sundry times [required] the prior of the monastery and house of Bridlyngton, the which is the lord of the tenement and other the premises as in the right of his priory, to minister in force unto your beseechers and have the view and copy of such writings customs and verdicts as hath passed by the verdict and....and belongeth to the Court of Cogden, the prior hath at all times denied and yet doth contrary

[1] i.e., Swaledale.

to all right and good conscience by reason whereof over a.... of his extort power and by the supportation maintenance and bearing of the prior and other in those parts without any just cause or justice and contrary to all right....conscience doth daily vex and trouble your beseechers in the occupation thereof nor will permit nor suffer your beseechers to occupy the premises in peaceable manner, to their utter undoing and impoverishment of them their wives and children and unto the most evil ensample of all like offenders, Also whereas that before....your lordship directed forth of this honourable Court of Chancery the King's Grace's Commission unto Roger Lassells and Rowland Place Esqs. for to examine and dece-[? dete-].....enquiries and complaints or else to certify at a certain day in the honourable Court of Chancery thereof before the which commissioners the p-.... the said Antony would in no wise make an answer. Wherefore pleaseth it your most good and honourable Lordship in the way of pity and charity — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : John Doo of London h-.....
John Coo of Lond-.....

23. E.C.P. 950. 55. [*English*]

[A.D. 1540].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — — sheweth — — — William Brabyner, clerk, Vicar of Scarburghe in the County of Yorke, that where your orator and his predecessors vicars there time out of mind have been seised of a yearly pension of 28*li.* sterling as parcel of their endowment going out of the late priory of Burlyngton in the County aforesaid by the hands of the priors of the late priory and their officers, which priors of long time have been parsons in person of the Church of Skarburghe, which late priory and the possessions lands tenements and interests of the late priory are now lawfully come to the possession and seisin of our sovereign lord the King by the attainder of treason of the late prior of the late priory, by force whereof your orator often and many times sued to the King's officers there to have had payment of the pension, which he could not have any part thereof of a long time, So that by the month of May in the 32nd year of the reign of our sovereign lord the King the arrearages of your orator's pension amounted to the sum of 84*li.*, And further, good lord, Sir Geo. Daunce, Kt., Rich. Pollard and Thos. Moyle, Esquires, Surveyors of our Sovereign lord of his attainted lands, upon the suit and direct proof of your orator therein made, did decree that your orator should have from thenceforth yearly payment of his pension with the arrearage thereof, whereupon Tristram [Tesshe] about the 10th day of August in the 32nd year made faithful promise unto your beseecher

that he should have payment of 40 marks in a parcel of the arrearages within 2 months then ensuing, So that your orator would send to him an acquittance for the same, within which time your orator sent one Robt. Brabyner his kinsman and servant to Tristram with an acquittance of 40 marks, to the intent that he should have received the sum of 40 marks and delivered the acquittance, Whereupon when Robt. Bradbener came unto Tristram and did his message, Tristram demanded of him if he had any such acquittance as was promised and desired first to see the same, Upon a sight whereof he took it with him and went his way and sent his servant to Robert with 20 marks, which 20 marks the servant paid to your orator's servant and took of him an acquittance of the receipt of the 20 marks, your orator's servant thinking that he should have had again the other acquittance of the 40 marks, which he could not obtain again, for Tristram would no more be seen of your orator's servant after that time, So that Tristram hath an acquittance of 40 marks for the payment of bare 20 marks and will not deliver the same acquittance of 40 marks to your orator, although he have often times required it, Nor yet will not pay the 40 marks according to right and good conscience, but doth now craftily and untruly allege both the acquittances against your orator affirming that he hath received 40*li.* by the two acquittances where indeed it was but only 20 marks, against all right and good conscience, Of which subtle and crafty dealing your orator can have no remedy by the common law to make Tristram to deliver the other acquittance and is like to lose 40 marks by the same unless your good lordship's favour to him be shortly shewed in this behalf. — — — [*Plea for redelivery of acquittances and* Sub pena].

Byland Abbey.

24. E.C.P. 387. 42. [*English*] [*Mutilated*].

[A.D. 1515–1518].

To the — — — Lord Cardinal Archbishop of York.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — the abbot and convent of the monastery of Our Lady of Byl....[*torn*]....predecessors have been seised in their demesne as of fee in the right of their monastery of the parsonage and.....of Bubwyth within the County aforesaid and of.....to the same parsonage belonging So it is gracious lord that whereas your orators and their predecessors have been possessed and seised of a certain rent of 20d. by the year.....lordship and manor of Fokerthorpe which rent hath been paid unto your orators and their predecessors by the

hands of the tenants and occupiers of.....evidence as your orators had for the due proof of the title of your orators in the rent are come into the hands of one Robert Blanchard..... lordship of Fokerthorppe, by having of which evidences Robert hath now of late withdrawn the payment of the rent for the which they have no remedy by the course of the common law And also your orators have not any remedy against Robert for the recovery of the evidences — — — [*etc.* — — — *because no certainty of the number etc. of the documents.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Robert.....
Ric. .....

— — — in the Quindene of Michaelmas next.

By Robert Bever.....

25. E.C.P. 734. 1. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533-1538].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Lord Chancellor of England.

In most humble wise complaineth and sheweth — — — James Bolton of Ramsgyll in Nydderdal in the County of Yorke That where he and his ancestors of time out of mind of man have been peaceably and lawfully seised of and in one farm with the appurtenances in Ramsgyll in his and their tenant right after the custom of the country there, and your orator so being thereof seised and also a man of good name fame and reputation among his neighbours in the country, one Myls Lolle of his froward and malicious mind that he did bear to your orator not only to defraud and deprive him of his good name and fame, but also of his farm and living full falsely and craftily Imagined a wile in manner and form following that is to say About five years past to the intent before expressed the said Myllys would have hired one Robert Holme his neighbour there for a certain wages to him to be paid for his labour to the intent that he should have marked two lambs of one William Topham's his neighbour in like wise with the sheepsmark of your orator and to have put them into the pasture of your orator to turn your orator to such vexation and trouble whereby Myllys might have a means wrongfully to obtain the farm of your orator, which evil act Robert Holme charitably moved in his conscience utterly refused to do, yet notwithstanding of the malicious mind of Myllys the same Myllys caused one Lowrence Lolle his son and one Robert Holme his servant son to the foresaid Robert Holme to mark the lambs and to put them into the pasture of your orator in manner and form as Myllys had falsely before pretenced, which thing according to his commandment and by his occasion Lowrence and Robert did, your orator not knowing thereof, Insomuch that William Toopham very owner of the lambs after the act doing came to the pasture of your orator and

took his lambs pronouncing this matter to be the act of your orator to the extreme fear of your orator So that your poor orator was compelled by fear to depart from thence about 8 or 9 miles, Forasmuch as before that time your orator had had like wrongful vexation and trouble at Myllys' suit and was thereof acquitted by the order of the King's most honorable laws, And your orator so departing left Margaret Bolton his mother at home in his farm, whom Myllys before hath forcibly expulsed and put out, And also the abbot of Byland by force of his royalty in the said Country and by way of maintenance of Myllys, of his power and might and against all right and conscience hath seised the goods and chattels of your orator's mother by way of escheat, and yet the same wrongfully detaineth and witholdeth both the farm and goods from your orator and his mother to their utter impoverishment and undoing for ever. Upon which slanderous trespass by Myllys and his son committed, Myllys and Lowrence, as also the abbot of Byland for his extortion done are indicted at Sessions in that County holden, as by indictments thereof made reciting the effect of the malicious matters aforesaid more plainly doth appear, Which envious matter with all the circumstance thereof was truly and charitably confessed by Robert Holme, whom Myllys first encouraged to do this evil act, And of which false invention Robert will be ready at all times truly and justly to certify the whole truth upon his oath and conscience, And further for the proof of your orator's truth in this behalfe and to prove neither act nor consent to come of him in this cause your orator hath one testimonial to the number of four score and above of his neighbours sealed with their seals testifying and declaring that your orator is of this marking and other things laid to his charge nothing guilty neither in act nor in consent but that he is wrongfully falsely and uncharitably slandered in this matter, And forasmuch as your orator is a very poor man and very innocent, not able to abide trial hereof nor yet to sue to have his right and his adversaries punished by the order of the common law because they be men of much substance and have great bearers ['beyrers'] in the country contrary to the King's most honorable laws, In tender consideration whereof — — — [*etc. Plea for writs* sub pena *severally*] — — —

Pallmer.

26. E.C.P. 890. 56. [*English*] [*Rubbed and dirty*]

[A.D. 1533-38].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth — — — Geo. Soulby That where your orator is lawfully seised in his demesne as of fee of and in one messuage two hundred acres of land 70 of pasture 30 acres of meadow and ten acres of wood with the appurtenances as very

owner thereof set and lying in Flettham and Leyburn in the County of Yorke and in the fields and parishes of the same And so it is honourable lord that divers deeds writings and evidences concerning the same be come [to the] hands [and] possession of one John[1] abbot of Byland, the number and certainty whereof or wherein they be contained your orator knoweth not, albeit your orator hath often [required] the abbot to deliver unto him the deeds writings and evidences, which to do he hath always denied and ever doth, And furthermore sheweth unto your good lordship that ..... Soulby father to your orator upon trust and confidence delivered unto one .....-stable a standing cup, a chain of gold and in ready money 20*li.*, with other ..... to keep to the behoof and use of your orator and to deliver ..... to him [when] he should be thereto required, which ..... 20*li.* and other goods to him delivered in form abovesaid be[come to the] hands and custody of the said abbot of whom your orator hath required to have delivery of the cup chain and the other goods, which the abbot [like-]wise hath denied and yet doth to deliver unto your orator And forasmuch as your orator is [? ignorant] what ounces the cup is of or how many ounces of gold the chain containeth or the very certainty of the particulars of the ..... [*he is without remedy, etc. Plea for writ* sub pena].

Roger Chomley

Easby, St. Agatha's Abbey.

27. E.C.P. 24. 19. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1453–54].

To the ..... Earl of Salisbury and Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth your lordship and lamentably complaineth your poor chaplains and continual bedemen the abbot and convent of the monastery of S. Agas beside Richmond in the shire of York how that Sir Thomas Metham, Kt. and Richard Metham his son of great malice proposeth to undo and finally destroy your chaplains and their monastery, your orators threatens to .....-ne and slay and their goods and chattels divers times with force hath taken and had away and to their tenants such threats and menaces puts that the tenants depart from their tenure and makes other folks to sue and vex them by the spiritual law as well in the Court of Rome as in the Court of the right venerable Father in God the Archbishop of York, and also by great and subtle means hath made the great part of their livelihood to be seized into the King's hand by colour of an office taken by their .....-chard Clervaux late Eschætor of Yorkshire, the which office your

[1] John Ledes, abbot A.D. 1525 to the Dissolution.

beseechers to their unportable costs have traversed and that found for them as it ..... in the Exchequer of our Lord the King, and never ground nor cause the said Sir Thomas nor Richard would shew of their vexation, howbeit that they have been at.....-tre as well in the presence of the high and mighty Prince the Duke of York as in other places by his high commandment, notwithstanding the said Sir Thomas..... monastery and great letting of divine service and other deeds of charity without your gracious help to them to be shewed in that behalf — — — [*Plea for writs* sub pena] — — —

28. E.C.P 115. 34. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93 or 1504–1515].

To the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth — — — John Bonfan and Elizabeth his wife daughter and heir of John Clynt that whereas this said John Clynt and his ancestors of long time have been seised of and in certain lands and tenements with their appurtenances lying in Rychemont in the County of York, so it is, gracious lord, that divers evidences, charters and muniments concerning the same are come to the hands and possession of the abbot of the monastery of St. Agatha within the said County of York, and howbeit that your orators divers and many times hath required the abbot to deliver unto them the evidences, charters and muniments, that to do at all times he utterly hath refused and yet doth contrary to all right and conscience, and insomuch as your orators know not the certain number nor contents of the same nor whether they be contained in bag, box or chest, they be without remedy by the course of the common law.....

[*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Water of London, yeoman.
Stephen Baker of London, yeoman.

29. E.C.P. 372. 70. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515; probably *c.* 1509].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor

Sheweth — — — Margaret Wilberfosse cousin and heir of William Wilberfosse late deceased that where William Wilberfosse in his life was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in the manors of Egliston and Poklyngton with the appurtenances in the Counties of Yorke and Durysme and also of and in certain other lands and tenements within the Counties and so being seised thereof died

seised After whose decease all the foresaid manors lands and tenements with the appurtenances descended and of right ought to descend unto your oratrix as cousin and heir of William And so it is now gracious lord that all the evidences charters escripts writings and muniments concerning the premises be come to the hands and possession of William[1] the abbot of St. Agatha and Christopher F....[*torn*]....horp Esquire whom your oratrix hath often times required to make delivery unto her of the same which to do they at all times have refused and yet refuse contrary to all right and good conscience And in so much — — — [*etc.* — — — *No remedy at the common law because of ignorance of the number etc. of the evidences* — — — *Plea for writs* sub pena].

Pledges : John Hunt of London yeoman
Willm. Coltman of the same brewer.

..... on the morrow of all Souls next.

E.C.P. 371. 82. contains a plea by the same Margaret Wilberfosse against James Sympson, a trustee enfeoffed to uses, for recovery of lands and tenements in York, dated 24 Henry VII [1509].

30. E.C.P. 438. 32. [*English*]

[A.D. 1515–1518].

To — — — Thomas lord Cardinal.....and Chancellor.

In the most humble wise complaining sheweth the abbot and Convent of the monastery of St. Agatha near Richemount in the County of York within your diocese That where one Edmund Copyngdale besides Beverley of his extort power and might hath commenced an action of debt of 14*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* against your orators to be tried in the County of York upon a feigned and forged obligation in the name of one Robert Preston[2] sometime abbot of the monastery and convent of the same intending thereby to impoverish them and their poor house Whereunto your orators according to the order of the law pleaded not their deed And Edmund had a panel returned of the names of good and indifferent persons for the trial of the same And after at the day of his *nisi prius* would not put in but discontinued the same to your orators great cost and charge in bringing his counsel to York for the defence of the same And so it is good and gracious lord that Edmund of his further craft and subtle dealing hath eftsoons commenced a new action of debt in London upon the feigned and forged obligation against your orators supposing .....-s declaration that the obligation should be sealed with the common seal

[1] William Lingard, abbot A.D. 1492 to 1511.
[2] Probably Baildon's abbot "Robert," noted A.D. 1422 and 1458.

in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West in the ward of Faryngton within the walls of London where of very truth it is not so intending thereby by his power and his great acquaintance he hath in London to have his action tried there according to his appetite contrary to all law right and good conscience In consideration whereof for that your orators be set and inhabit in far parts having small acquaintance at London and by reason of that feigned suit daily be impoverished and greatly let of their divine service — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena *and injunction not to proceed on* nisi prius].

Pledges : John Clark of Gastene in ..... yeoman.
Rich. Do of London yeoman

— — — in the Quindene of Hilary next.

W. Throkmorton.

31. E.C.P. 670. 44. [*English*]

[A.D. 1529–1532].

To — — — Sir Thomas More, Lord Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — the Burgesses Bailiffs and Inhabitants of the Kings Borough and Town of Richemount in the County of York that where your orators from time out of mind incorporated by the name of the Burgesses of the Town of Richemount and have had to them given and granted in fee ferm the said town by the noble progenitors and ancestors of our sovereign lord the King that now is with many liberties and franchises tolls other profits and commodities to the town belonging ..... with a great waste ground called Richemount yielding unto the perquisites of our sovereign lord their heirs and successors a yearly fee ferm of 20*li.* therefor wh..... grant and gift in fee ferm aswell before time of mind as divers times since hath been approved allowed and ratified and also confirmed by divers of the king's noble progenitors by virtue whereof your orators and their predecessors have ..... had occupied and enjoyed the premises to them and their successors according to the tenor and effect of the sundry grants confirmations and usages out of time of mind And by reason thereof have evermore served the King our sovereign and his noble progenitors with able men of war in every time of need to the number of 200 persons and at the last Scots' field[1] your orators served the King with seven score and ten able men of war on horse back which were only taken and app..... within the town of Richemount by reason of which liberties and fee ferm your orators and their predecessors have been evermore the abler to serve the King our sovereign lord and his noble progenitors at all such times of need And so it is, honourable lord, that one Richard

[1] No doubt the battle of Flodden in 1513.

Bowes Esquire which hath married Elizabeth one of the daughters and heirs of Roger Aske late deceased being seised in his demesne as of fee as in the right of his wife of and in the manor of Aske in the County of York hath a great moor parcell of the said moor next adjoining and abutting upon the Moor and common parcel of the fee ferm of the town of Richmond by right whereof the burgesses and Inhabitants of the town have used time out of mind to entrecome par cause de vicinage with the inhabitants and tenants of the manor of Aske in both the moors and so have continued time out of mind till of late time that one of the ancestors of Elizabeth did inclose a piece of the moor parcel of the manor of Aske from the burgesses and inhabitants of the town of Richemount and that now of a latter time Richard Bowes hath also inclosed the residue of the moor parcel of the manor of Aske wholly from your orators burgesses and inhabitants of the town of Richemount so that they cannot use or have common there as is before expressed but clearly be expelled and put from their common which hath been there used time out of mind And that notwithstanding Richard Bowes doth not let to use common with your orators in their moor and common nor suffer them to entrecome with him or yet to inclose their moor and common from him as he hath done his from them but with his cattle doth surcharge and overlay them and their common Contrary to all good right and conscience And also Richard Bowes is so strong in kindred and allied with the most part ..... gentlemen of the County so that your orators be not able to maintain a suit or action against him by the order of the common law but have been dr-.....-e charges travail hindrance and extremities in the pursuit and maintenance of their franchises and liberties which they be like utterly to lose so that your orators .....-cessors in time coming shall not be able to maintain the Town or to make to our sovereign Lord the King any good and able men of war what need s-..... shall fortune to have in time coming unless your good lordship do consider the great decay of the town in losing of the common and liberties in l-..... orators and their successors be like to be disinherited impoverished and undone for evermore for lack of the common liberties yielding unt-..... the foresaid yearly rent of 20*li.* which moor ..... were thus wrongfully taken from your orators and their successors being the proper inheri-.....-ings Crown shall be the destruction of the town and the minishment and hurt of the King's Royal Crown and dignity and to the..... his grace's inheritance in the yearly rent reserved upon the fee ferm and furthermore honorable lord divers evidences deeds ..... bounders and writings [concerning the premises *inserted*] be come unto the hands of Dame Maud Parr widow, the abbot of St. Agatha, the abbot of Gervase and of Richard Bowes which can evidently and plainly divide and sever the ground of Richard Bowes from the great moor called Richemount Moor and which

evidences and bounders in like wise can plainly shew and declare the rate and quantity of the moor and the particulars and contents of the same and without the sight of the evidences and bounders/ the very truth therein in no wise can be known and in consideration that your orators have [*sc.* no] remedy by the course of the common law to compel Dame Mawde Parr the abbot of St. Agatha's the abbot of Gervase and Richard Bowes to bring and shew forth the evidences and bounders concerning the premises It may therefore please your good lordship — — — [*plea for writs* sub pena *severally, instructing them to bring the evidences*].

[*The end is mutilated and rubbed. There are a few small mutilations throughout*].

Egglestone Abbey.

32. E.C.P. 38. 281. [*English*]

[A.D. 1467-72 and perhaps 1433–43; *almost certainly the former*].

To — — — the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth your humble orator Robert Menevile that where he and one Alan Fulthorp held together and undivided the manor of Stertford in the County of York that is to say Robert as son and heir of Margaret late the wife of John Menevyle and Alan as son and heir of Thomas Fulthorp son and heir of Thomas Fulthorp son and heir of Alice sister of the said Margaret Cosyns and heiress of Alice Blande that is to say daughter of Katherine daughter of the said Alice, one John[1], abbot of the Church of St. John Baptist of Egleston by the covin and assent of Aleyn hath cut down wood late growing upon 40 acres of ground parcel of the manor against the will of your beseecher and to his disheritance and also to his hurt of 20*li.*, Of the which disinheritance and hurt he can have no remedy by course of the common law of this realm because of the covin of Alan, Please it therefore .....

[*Plea for writs* sub pena *severally to the Abbot and Alan.*]

Pledges : John Alburgh of London Mercer
Thomas Danby of London, gentleman.

33. E.C.P. 890. 25–27. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533–38].

890. 25.

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Chancellor — — —

[1] John de Woolston, abbot A.D. 1455 to 1476.

— — — sheweth — — — John Scrope Lord Scrope of Bolton That where Sir Guy Fayrffax Kt., one of the King's Justices, John Conyers Kt. and others were seised of and in the manor of Ellerton on Swale in the County of Yorke in their demesne as of fee to the use of one John late Lord Scrope And of his heirs And so thereof being seised in consideration of marriage to be had between Henry Scrope, eldest son and heir apparent of John late Lord Scrope, and one Elizabeth Percy, sister of the right noble Henry late Earl of Northumberland, it was covenanted and agreed between Henry late Earl of Northumberland of the one party and John late Lord Scrope on the other party that for divers great sums of money which Henry Percy late Earl of Northumberland paid to John late Lord Scrope for and in consideration of the marriage, that is to say, John late Lord Scrope of his party covenanted and granted that Sir Guy Fayrffax and other his cofeoffees of the premises should stand and be seised of the manor of Ellerton to the use of Henry Scrope and Elizabeth and the heirs male of the body of Henry Scrope lawfully begotten and for default of such issue then to the use of the right heirs of John late Lord Scrope, And after Henry Scrope and Elizabeth were married after the laws of Holy Church, after which espousals Sir Guy Fayrffax and other his cofeoffees were seised of the premises to the use of Henry Scrope and Elizabeth and the heirs male [*etc.*] And after[wards] John Lord Scrope died, after whose death Henry and Elizabeth died, by reason whereof the use of the premises descended and of right ought to descend to your orator, that is to say of the estate tail as cousin and heir male of the body of Henry Scrope, that is to say son and heir of the body of Henry Lord Scrope son and heir of the body of the said Henry Scrope lawfully begotten, and of the use of fee simple of the premises to your orator as cousin and heir of John late Lord Scrope, that is to say son and heir of Henry Lord Scrope son and heir of Henry son and heir of John late Lord Scrope great-grandfather to your orator, by reason whereof your orator entered into the premises and now is lawfully seised thereof to him and his heirs male — — —

[*The remainder of the document consists of a plea against* George Soulby *for interrupting the possession of the complainant in the premises by reason of wrongful possession of evidences etc. relating to them*].

John Suthwell

890. 26. *Wyngfeld Chydley Leder*

The Answer of Geo. Soulby to the [*above*] Bill of Complaint — — —

The said George saith that the Bill is uncertain — — — [*etc.*] — — — Nevertheless for answer — — — he saith that

Henry late Lord Scrope named in the Bill and father to the complainant was seised of and in the manor of Ellerton in his demesne as of fee and he being thereof seised by his deed indented under his seal of arms and sign manual dated the 18th day of October in the year of our Lord God MV^{c} and XVII and in the 9th year of the reign of our sovereign lord the King that now is demised and to farm did let to George Soulby his manor of Ellerton with all manner of lands meadows leasows closures pastures commons and all other appurtenances thereto belonging To have and to hold the manor [*etc.*] to George and his assigns from the Feast of the Purification of Our Lady next ensuing the date of the deed indented unto the end and term of 41 years then next following — — — yielding and paying therefor yearly to the late Lord Scrope his heirs and assigns at the Feasts of St. Martin in winter and Pentecost £14. 6. 8. — — —

[*The defendant claims lawful possession of the premises both then and now, denies that Sir Guy Fairfax or any other has any claim therein as feoffee or that the late Lord Scrope had then any more estate therein than fee simple or in use, and denies the possession of any evidences etc. than the lease indented mentioned above, and prays for discharge*].

890. 27.

[*In bad condition, stained and much mutilated. The sense can be made out as follows*].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth John Lord Scrope of Bolton That where the abbot and convent of.....in the County of York and his predecessors abbots of the monastery have been bound time without memory of man to the contrary at the proper costs and charges of the abbot for the time being to find a secular priest being a religious man to sing and say mass matins evensong and other divine services.....for.....chapel of Ellerton in the County of York, which chapel is ..... and builded ..... the manor of Ellerton, and to pray for ..... of his ancestors and of those whose estate your beseecher hath in the said ..... or your beseecher is now seised.

[*Abstract*] Abbot John bound himself and his convent to perform the above services. An original charter between Harsculph de Cleysby and the convent is quoted. The line of descent of the complainant is given; he quotes a deed of agreement between Thomas now abbot and the complainant, to perform the services as above under penalty of 200 marks for default. Plea is made for an injunction to abbot Thomas to find the secular priest to sing in the chapel according to the tenor of the deed and usage aforesaid, to pay to the complainant the sum of 200 marks, and to appear in Chancery.

[*Note—Although the name of the Abbey is quite illegible and partly lost, 'Egglestone' can be supplied with reasonable certainty. Harsculph de Cleasby was a donor to Egglestone Abbey, and John Wakefield*[1] *and Thomas Darnton*[2] *were the Abbots concerned*].

34. E.C.P. 895. 22. [*English*]

[*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1533–38].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth John Lord Scrope of Bolton in the County of Yorke That where the abbot of the monastery of Egleston the time out of mind hath used to find an honest lay priest to sing in the chantry of Bolton or in the parish church of Ellerton upon Swale in the County of York of their proper costs and charges, the which appeareth by the gift and foundation of Huresculph Cleseby ..... by their ..... and gracious love ..... the abbot and convent of their mere wrong and malice ..... of their religion and the statute in that behalf provided by the King's highness and other his most honourable Council ..... So it is gracious lord, that the most part of the evidences concerning the composition and foundation of the [? Chantry] be come to the possession of the abbot the contents whereof are unknown to your beseecher ..... [*Clauses of no certainty and no remedy ..... Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —
— — — on Easter Day one month next.

Ferriby Priory.

35. E.C.P. 447. 32. [*English*]

[A.D. 1515–1518].

To — — — Thomas Cardinal, Archbishop of York and Chancellor.

Piteously sheweth and complaineth — — — Richard Smetheley that whereas your beseecher is lawfully seised and possessed in his demesne as of fee of 3 acres of land with their appurtenances in Tranby within the County of Kyngeston upon Hull and certain evidences charters writings and muniments concerning the same are come to the hands possession and keeping

[1] Abbot A.D. 1503 to 1519.
[2] Abbot A.D. 1519 to the Dissolution.

of one Thomas[1] prior of Feryby within the said County whom your beseecher divers and many times hath required delivery of which to do at all seasons he hath utterly denied and as yet doth deny to deliver contrary [to] all right and good conscience And insomuch — — — [*etc. No remedy at the common law because no certainty of the number etc. of the deeds.....Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Robert Horcel of London, gentleman.
Rich. Saman of the same yeoman.

— — — on the Morrow of the Purification of the Blessed Mary.

Fountains Abbey.

36. E.C.P. 6. 287. [*French*]

[A.D. 1414–1434].

To — — — the Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth humbly John Rypon[2] abbot of Founteyns that whereas Nicholl Tempest Esquire holds against the will of the abbot and the convent their grange of Sutton with the appurtenances in the County of York to the value of 20*li.* yearly, which 20*li.* are in arrears for 3 years and unpaid, and the abbot and convent have often times come to the grange and requested him to pay the farm; because of which payment Nicholl and his servants have maliciously beset the abbot to have killed and murdered him; and also Nicholl has taken and carried away a great quantity of lead, being on the ground of the abbot and convent, against right and reason, to the great impoverishment of the abbot and convent if remedy thereof be not provided by your very gracious lordship; Wherefore please it your very gracious lordship to grant to the petitioner a brief directed to Nicholl charging him to pay to the abbot the sums above mentioned and also to restore the lead or the true value thereof on a certain pain by you to be limited or otherwise to appear before you in the Chancery — — — [*etc.*] — — — considering, very gracious lord, that Nicholl is the greatest extortioner of all the country where he dwells and none can have recovery against him by the common law.

Pledges : Roger Crome.
William Buktrout.

[1] Apparently Thomas Burgh, prior in succession to John Thornton, but at an earlier date than that given by Baildon.

[2] Abbot A.D. 1414 to 1434.

37. E.C.P. 7. 90. [*French*]

[*c.* A.D. 1427].

To — — — the Archbishop of York and Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth humbly your poor orators the abbot and convent of the house of Our Lady of Founteyns in the County of York that whereas one Robert de Burton of York lately bought of the petitioners 45 dickers[1] ['dacres'] of tanned leather, which were the goods of the House, for 100 marks, which 45 dickers of leather were delivered by the petitioners to Robert, by virtue of which purchase he carried them towards the City of York, and in carrying this leather towards the City ..... [*an erasure of* 10 *or* 12 *words*] ..... were taken by force and arms from the possession of Robert by William Bolton, Chaplain, and others unknown, as the goods of one Roger Franks, declaring that he was abbot of the House, though he never was abbot of the House; and then Robert, in the 5th year of K. Henry V after the Conquest, pursued a plaint of trespass against William Bolton, Chaplain, in the said City before the Sheriffs of the City for the time being, declaring by his plaint that William wrongfully took his goods, that is to say the 45 dickers of leather amounting in value to 100 marks; in which action William appeared in proper person and pleaded that he never took the goods; and afterwards it was found by an inquest taken between the parties that William took the goods of Robert as he had declared by his plaint, wherefore he had judgement of recovery and upon this execution awarded to him against William Bolton; for which reason William in the 4th year of the reign of the present King pursued a plaint of trespass against the abbot and one Richard Newall his fellow-monk in the City aforesaid before one William Bedell and one William Gateside then Sheriffs of the City[2], declaring by his plaint that the abbot and Richard his fellow-monk had wrongfully taken the 45 dickers of leather out of the possession of William Bolton in the aforesaid City, which is in another County than that of the petitioners; the which suit is now pending before one William Gillyngton[3] and one John Dodyngton[4] now being Sheriffs of the same City, and William Bolton, by maintenance of William Bedell, before whom the suit was taken he being then one of the Sheriffs of the City, and William Gateside now one of the Sheriffs of the City, because they are in agreement with William Bolton, and because of other great

[1] Dacre, a 'dicra,' dicker or ten skins.
[2] William Bedale and William Gateshed are given as Sheriffs in A.D. 1425.
[3] Sheriff in 1427.
[4] Sheriff in 1426.

maintenance which he has in the City by reason that he dwells in the City, to this intent by their imagination that in case the petitioners should bring any plea upon which any inquest should be taken between the parties, the inquest should pass against the petitioners by reason of the aforesaid maintenance, to the utter destruction of the petitioners. May it please — — — [*etc. Plea for briefs to William Bolton to appear in Chancery, and to the Mayor and Sheriffs of York to remove the plea entered between the parties*].

Pledges for prosecution { William Goodhall / John Morpath

38. E.C.P. 7. 297. [*French*]

[A.D. 1391–1431; possibly 1449–52].

To their — — — founder the Archbishop of York, Primate and Chancellor of England.

— — — the abbot and convent of Founteyns of your foundation that whereas John de Preston of Malgham and William de Preston of Otirburne in Craven the 10th day of December last with force and arms came to their abbey in the hour of vespers and there in the cloister and the sanctuary made great affray and assault on the monks and the servants there with their swords, spears and other weapons, wishing to have killed those whom they found there present, and then they lying in wait for the abbot, his fellow-monks and servants in the parts of Craven took a monk and officer of the abbey Dan John de Preston and would have killed him unless he made fine with them of two marks which they took from him; and also they are still lying in wait against the abbot and convent and their servants, and menace them with death to their persons and their cattle to the very great damage of your Chaplains and against the peace of our lord the King; wherefore your Chaplains beseech humbly your very reverend Paternity that it please you to send for the wrongdoers and their helpers by brief of *Quibusdam certis de causis* or other at your pleasure to have them before you and the Council of our lord the King in his Chancery and have them chastised according to your very high discretion so that your Chaplains and their servants may be in peace and other such wrongdoers be chastised by their example.

39. E.C.P. 11. 181. [*English*]

[A.D. 1431–1442, or possibly 1467–1473].

To — — — the Bishop of Bath, Chancellor of England.

Beseech — — — the abbot and convent of the house of Our Lady of Fountaynce that how Henry Herthyngton of Herthyngton in the County of York, Esquire, and William Herthyngton of Hawkeswyk in the same County, gentleman, of great malice and cunning imagined between them to put the abbot and convent to great vexation, labour and costs without cause shown, and make divers others and many from time to time to sue plaints of trespass and debt in the Courts of the Wapentake of Staynclyf in Craven, Skipton and Gysburn in Yorkshire, where the said Henry and William have great might rule and governance, to the intent to make the said abbot to labour to the said Courts from three weeks to three weeks, the which abbot dwelleth from some of the Courts 30 miles, from other some 20 miles and from the next 16 miles, at which courts the abbot must needs appear to answer to the said plaints or else he shall be grievously from time to time amerced in the Courts by the excitation of Henry and William; And when the abbot, that is of great age, for eschewing of the amerciaments cometh to the Courts to his great labour cost and disease to answer to the plaints, the plaintiffs in the same are non-suited by cunning and malice aforesaid, And anon after the departing thence of the abbot the plaintiffs of the same malice and cunning without cause of truth enter new plaints against him in the same courts to the intent to make him to be amerced or else to labour as is aforesaid; and such suits are and have been of long time continued from year to year for the vexation and loss of the abbot, to the intent to make him either give Henry and William a yearly reward or else a notable sum of money to the great hurt cost and loss of your said beseechers before past and much more hereafter are like to have in like case, without that they may have help and succour of your gracious lordship in that part. [*Plea for writs* sub pena].

40. E.C.P. 28. 330. [*English*]

[A.D. 1404 (1414)–1425, or 1459].

To — — — the Bishop of Exeter, Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth your good lordship piteously complaining Margaret that late was the wife of Richard Bank of Whixley that where the same Richard since the espousals between Richard and the suitor had was possessed and seised, to him and to the heirs of his body begotten, of the manor of Whixley 10 messuages and 20 oxgangs of land with the appurtenances in Whixley, whereof your suppliant standeth ..... And also Richard was possessed of 60 quarters of wheat and 100 quarters of rye coming of certain ground in Whixley let by John[1] now abbot of Fontaunce by the

[1] Either John Ripon, abbot A.D. 1414 to 1434, or John Greenwell, abbot 1444 to 1471.

desire of the honourable lord Richard late Earl of Salisbury to John Mallevere, Robert Roos and William Wakefield, and after manured and sown by Richard by the assent of John, Robert and William; and also of 100 fothers ['Foder'] of hay lying in the barn of the chief place of Richard at Whixley, and of certain other goods and chattels within the same place to the value of 100 marks and better, to the time that Richard was put out of the manor, messuages and lands and spoiled of the corn, hay and goods by John, abbot of Fontance by colour of a statute merchant pretended to be made by one of the ancestors of Richard to one of the predecessors of the abbot in the time of King Edward sometime King of England, the execution whereof was laboured by the malicious counsel of ..... Thwaytes and others, and the land of Richard seised by his most enemies, insomuch that they extented lands to 8*li.* by year the which were better yearly than 20*li.* and also extented and put in extent and execution other lands purchased by Richard, to the utter destruction of your suppliant and her seven children, insomuch that they have neither livelihood nor goods to relieve themselves with by the rigorousness and ..... of the abbot to their ..... destruction without your gracious consideration to them shewed in that behalf; — — — [*etc. Plea for writs* sub pena] — — — and your suppliant and her seven children shall ever pray to God for you.

41. E.C.P. 71. 51. [*English*]

[XIV and XV Cent.]

To the right gracious Lord Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth full humbly your devout orator the abbot of Founteyns that whereas John Tenant of Netherhesilden, John Man late of Thorpe under Wod, Rogar Tenaunt of Eveston, William Felebrig otherwise called William Wade of York, Thomas Paliser of Sandehoton and James Osbaldeston, Esquire, gathered unto them many riotous and misgoverned people arrayed in manner of war, the tenants and servants of the abbot, that is to say his menial servants, his bailiffs, Receivers, and shepherds being on the field keeping his sheep, assaulted them, beat them, wounded them, and so from day to day threatened them to slay that they dare not abide in his service for dread of death, and if so be that any action be taken against them at the common law they remove and go into dales and fells so that there may be no common law executed against them, to the great hurt and prejudice of your orator but if [i.e., unless] he be otherwise remedied by your grace.

[*Plea for writs* sub pena *to each of the misdoers*].

Pledges : William Gayng of London
Robert Babyngton of Con-[*torn*]

42. E.C.P. 359. 3. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth unto your good lordship your daily orator John Snawsell that where your orator is seised of a messuage 60 acres of land and 20 acres of meadow in Salley within the County of York in his demesne as of fee and so being seised one Seth Snawsell father unto your orator delivered unto Marmaduke[1] now abbot of the monastery of our Lady of Fountaunce within the County of York certain evidences charters and muniments concerning the messuage and other the premises safely to keep and them to deliver again to your orator When he should be thereunto reasonably required by your orator And so it so good and gracious lord that your orator hath often made instance and required the said abbot to redeliver unto him the evidences charters and muniments which to do the abbot at all times denied and yet denieth contrary unto all good right and conscience — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Doo.
Richard Roo.

— — — in the Quindene of Hilary next.

43. E.C.P. 557. 56. [*English*] [*Defaced by rubbing*].

[A.D. 1518–1529].

To — — — Thomas, legate, Cardinal, Archbishop, Primate and Chancellor.

In his most humble wise sheweth and complaineth — — — John Pye son and heir of John Pye and Isabel his wife that where one Nicholas Blakborne was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in 14 messuages set and lying in the City of York and so seised ....gave and granted the premises unto Nicholas Blakborne his son for term of life and before his decease....remainder....to Agnes daughter unto the said Nicholas his son and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten by virtue whereof Nicholas the son was seised of and in the premises in his demesne as of free hold the remainder thereof unto Agnes ..... Nicholas the donor died And also Nicholas the son died before whose decease Agnes entered into the premises ..... was thereof seised in her demesne as of fee tail by virtue of the remainder And then took to husband one .... Waynesford .... had issue betwixt them of their two bodies lawfully begotten one Thomas Waynesford and then the

[1] Marmaduke Huby, abbot A.D. 1494 to 1516.

said ....-nesford .... Agnes of such estate died seised after whose death the right and title of the premises came [and] descended unto Thomas as son and heir of the body of Agnes and [*blank*] Waynesford lawfully begotten by virtue of .... was seised of and in the premises in his demesne as of fee tail by form of the gift aforesaid .... had issue Isabell and died seised of the premises after whose death Isabel as daughter and heir of Thomas entered into the premises and was thereof seised in her demesne as of fee tail And took to husband John Pye and had issue between them of their bodies lawfully begotten your orator and then Isabell his wife died after whose death John Pye held him in the premises as tenant by the courtesy and of such estate by protestation died seised after whose death the title and right of all the premises Came and descended and of very right ought to descend unto your orator as son and heir unto John Pye and Isabell And so it is good and gracious lord that divers deeds charters and evidences concerning the premises be come to the hands and possession of [John Thornton of *inserted*] Yorke merchant the abbot of Founteyns and the prior [of the Monastery of the Holy Trinity within the City of York *inserted*] the number and certainty whereof or whether they be contained in box .... [*etc.*] .... is unknown Albeit gracious Lord your orator hath often and many times required [the abbot prior and *inserted*] John Thornton to deliver the deeds and evidences unto your orator which then that to do always he hath refused and yet doth against right and conscience .... [*therefore no remedy, etc.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Nich. Sandford of Graundcester Gentleman.
Thos. Whitehede of the same yeoman.

— — — in the Octave of Trinity next.

E.C.P. 557. 57. [*English*]

Sotehill/Fairefax
Babthorpe/Welles

The answer of John Thornton to the bill of Complaint of John Pye.

The answer contains no reference to the abbot of Fountains or the prior of Holy Trinity Priory, York. It consists mainly of a plea by John Thornton that he was ignorant of John Pye's descent and admits custody of certain deeds relating to three messuages in Fostgate in the City of Yorke parcel of the lands in the bill specified, *and bargained and sold by John Pye as seised of the fee thereof* to one Richard Thornton late Alderman of the City of York father of John Thornton now defendant whose heir John Thornton is and to the heirs of John to the use of him and his heirs for ever for certain sums of money by Richard Thornton to John Pye

truly contented and paid And for certain sums by John Thornton son and heir to Richard Thornton and executor of the testament of Richard to John Pye also contented and paid for the bargain and sale of the three messuages And John Thornton saith that after the death of Richard his father he John and one Emmott mother to John brought a writ of entry in post of the 3 messuages against John Pye now complainant he then being tenant of the freehold of the 3 messuages and recovered the messuages against John Pye in the writ of entry as more plainly appeareth by the Record, which Recovery was had against John Pye to the use of John Thornton and of his heirs for ever by virtue of the bargain and sale by force whereof John Thornton entered into the 3 messuages and thereof was seised in fee to his own use and the profits thereof hath taken continually eversince the Recovery which is by the space of 14 years.

[*He denies all knowledge of any other deeds*].

Guisborough Priory.

44. E.C.P. 138. 78. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93 or 1504–1515].

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Sheweth — — — John[1], prior of the monastery of Our Lady of Gisburn within the County of York, That where one William Hedlam was indebted to your orator in the sum of 119*s.* 6*d.* truly to be contented to your orator at certain days betwixt them limited and appointed, which William before the days of payment died and made one Joan his wife executrix of his last will, which Joan took upon her the administration of the goods of the said William and the execution of his last will, and immediately after the decease of her husband conveyed herself and all her goods to the house of one Henry Thwayts of Little Smeaton within the County of York and was contented that Henry should have the rule ordering and disposition of all her goods and with the same to pay and content all such debts as her husband owed to any person according to right and good conscience; which Henry accordingly took upon him the ordering and disposition of the goods and for the true contentation of the sum of 119*s.* 6*d.* Henry came unto your orator and became surety to him for the true payment of the same, of

[1] Either John Moreby, prior A.D. 1475 to 1491, or John Whitby, 1491-1505, or John Moreby II, 1505-1511. But the accepted list seems a little suspect here.

the which sum of 119*s.* 6*d.* Henry contented and paid unto your orator the sum of 20*s.* So it is now, gracious lord, that the executrix is dead, after whose death all the said goods remain still in the possession of Henry and he them hath converted to his own use, and though Henry hath been often times required to content and pay the sum of 4*li.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, residue of the sum of 109*s.* 6*d.*, according to his promise thereof made, yet that to do at all times hitherto he hath refused and yet doth, so that your orator, insomuch as he gave confidence and faith unto Henry for the contentation of the premises taking of him none other surety nor any manner of specialty for the sure payment of the same is without remedy by the course of the common law and likely never to have the sum of 4*li.* 9*s.* 6*d.* according to his true right by Henry to be contented unless your gracious lordship be to him shewed in this behalf — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : William Morton of London, gentleman.
Robert Bentley of the same, gentleman.

45. E.C.P. 683. 23. [*English*] [*Much faded*].

[A.D. 1530–34].

To.....Sir Thomas More, Kt., Lord Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — Roger Towcotts Esquire That where one .....-otts was seised of and in a piece of woodland called Swethed containing about 6 acres in his demesne as of fee set and lying in Towcotts in the parishes of Upledam and Gysburgh in the County of York and so seised of such estate thereof died seised After whose death the premises descended unto one James Towcotts as son and heir unto the said James by virtue whereof the said James the son entered into the woodland aforesaid and was thereof seised in his demesne as of fee and so seised of that estate died seised After whose death the premises descended unto one John Towcotts as son and heir unto James the son and..... entered into the premises and was seised thereof in his demesne as of fee and so seised of that estate without issue of his body lawfully begotten died seised After whose death the premises descended and came unto one William Towcotts as brother and heir unto John which William entered into the premises and was thereof seised in his demesne as of fee and so seised of that estate died seised After whose death the premises descended and came to your beseecher as brother and next heir unto William By reason whereof your orator entered into the premises and was thereof seised and.....in his demesne as of fee And so it is an it like your good lordship that one James Cokerell[1] prior of the

[1] Prior A.D. 1519 to 1534.

monastery of our Lady of Gisbrugh in the said County hath without any title right or good authority entered into the 6 acres and of his own mere wrong hath felled and cut down all the woods growing therein And the same hath converted to his own use albeit that your orator and his ancestors have been thereof peaceably thereof seised by the space of 400 years And that notwithstanding the prior by colour of such deeds charters and evidences concerning the premises which the prior hath now of late gotten and conveyed into his possession letteth troubleth and unquieteth your orator in the taking of the profits thereof against all conscience, the number and certainty whereof and wherein they be contained your orator knoweth not albeit that your orator hath often and divers times required delivery thereof of the prior, which to do the prior always hath refused and yet doth, wherefore your orator is clearly without remedy by the course of the common law In consideration whereof.....[*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena].

Roger Cholmley.

46. E.C.P. 798. 37–43. [*English*]

[A.D. 1534].

798. 37.

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley — — —

— — — sheweth James[1] prior of the monastery of Our Blessed Lady of Gisburn in the County of York that where one Avery[2] prior of St. Oswaldes in the said County by prescription claimeth to have to him and his successors one yearly pension or annual rent of 24*li.* going out of the church or parsonage of Lythe in the County of York whereof your orator is parson and patron [and] neither he the prior of St. Oswald's nor yet any of his predecessors time out of mind were seised or paid of the yearly pension of 20*li.* but only of one annuity or pension of 10*li.* yet nevertheless the prior of St. Oswaldes commenced a writ of annuity against your suppliant being incumbent of the church or parsonage in which action the prior of Gisburn your beseecher prayed aid of Sir Francis Bygot, Kt., and of the Archbishop of York as Ordinary of the church, before which action your orator at Newburgh within the said County demanded of the prior of St. Oswaldes which asked or claimed the pension of 20*li.* which was never paid time out of mind and further shewed him that his pension was of right but 10*li.* and never more paid time without mind of man All which matter upon good evidence.....your orator that he would not take nor demand during his life any more than the

[1] James Cockerill.
[2] Alvered Comyn, prior of Nostell A.D. 1524 to ?

yearly pension of 10*li.* and upon the said agreement received 5*li.* for the half year's pension making acquittance for the same, your orator trusting that the prior of St. Oswald's would no further have proceeded in the action, yet nevertheless the same prior of St. Oswald's of his subtle disposition and contrary to his own agreement and promise and unknown to your suppliant proceeded in his action and recovered the annuity of 24*li.* by default by judgement given in the common place, against all law and conscience, And since the recovery so had contrary to the agreement final end and custom aforesaid the prior of St. Oswald's now of late hath sued further a *fieri facias* to execute the judgement to the great hurt and impoverishment of your suppliant and his monastery .....[*Plea for writ of injunction to the prior of St. Oswald's*]

— — —

[*Endorsed—imperfect*]. [*Latin*]

Mem. that in Trinity Term viz. on the 28th day of June 26 Hen. VIII a day was given to those within written to appear .....

798. 38. [*Latin*]

Copy of Commission from the King to Thos. Gryce and Thos. Grene, to take (*'in pergameno redigatis'*) the evidence of the prior of St. Oswald's, unable through weakness to appear, and to take his attorney. Dated 7 May 26 Hen. VIII.

[*Endorsed*]. The answer of Thos. Gryce and Thos. Grene, named within, as in a certain bill attached to this brief and accustomed.

798. 39.

A copy of 798. 37.

798. 40. [*English*]

[*A Certificate to the Lord Chancellor*].

We the aforesaid T. Grice and T. Greyn the 8th day of June in the 26th year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIIIth at the monastery of St. Oswald's diligently examined Avery now prior of St. Oswald's and took his answer on oath in his writing, to the bill of complaint of the prior of Gisburn and annexed it hereto. The prior hath appointed Rich. Welles his attorney.

By your Bedemen Thos. Gryce
Thos. Grene.

798. 41. [*English*]

Chaloner Welles

The answer of Alvery prior of St. Oswald's to the bill of Complaint of James prior of Gysburne.

The defendant saith that the bill of complaint is insufficient — — — [*etc.*] — — — Albeit for answer — — — the defendant saith that he and his predecessors priors of the monastery of St. Oswald's time out of mind of man hath had and of right ought to have one certain annual rent of 24*li.* going forth of the church of Lyth, as by one recovery in one writ of annuity heretofore sued by the predecessors of the prior of St. Oswald's, against the parson of Lyth then being, for the 24*li.*, And also other sufficient writings ready to be shewed in this honourable Court, shall and may appear at large; and further the prior of St. Oswald's saith that for because the complainant now being parson of the church of Lythe denied to pay the annuity of 24*li.* to the defendant the prior of St. Oswald's sued one certain writ of *scire facias* forth of the Records or Recovery in the writ of annuity returnable before the King his Justices of the Common place at one certain day in the writ mentioned, To warn the complainant to appear before the Justices to shew why the prior of St. Oswald's should not have execution forth of the Recovery according to the purport of the same, at which day the prior of Gysburn now complainant appeared and afterward prayed aid of Sir Francis Bygott Kt., patron of the church of Lyth And also the Archbishop of York Ordinary of the church And for because the complainant [nor] Sir Fra. Bygott nor the Archbishop at the day to them prefixed did plead nor administer any sufficient matter against the prior of St. Oswald's for barring him of the annuity and execution of the same, the Justices of the Common place awarded execution to the defendant of the annuity, and by force thereof the prior of St. Oswald's sued a writ of *fieri facias* against the prior of Gysburn to have execution of the arrearages of the annuity recovered as is before said as lawful was for him to do, which execution is now respited and delayed by reason of the King's writs of injunction to the defendant directed. And further the prior of St. Oswald's saith that for because the complainant had the aforesaid church of Lyth by resignation of Master Larke deceased and gave to Mast. Larke yearly during his natural life one certain great pension, and the prior of St. Oswald's was contented that during the life of Mast. Larke the prior of Gysburn should not pay to him but only ten pounds yearly for the annuity of 24*li.* without that the prior of St. Oswald's and his predecessors time out of mind of man hath been seised of one annuity or pension of 10*li.* only going forth of the church of Lyth as in the bill of complaint is untruly surmised and without that that the now prior commenced any writ of annuity or other process against the com-

plainant for obtaining of the Annuity but only the aforesaid *scire facias* and *fieri facias* heretofore in this answer mentioned, and without that that the now prior of St. Oswald's at any time did see any evidence which might avoid him of the annuity, or ever confessed or agreed to take 10*li.* only of the complainant yearly during his life, or by any time saving only during the life of Master Larke, as also in the bill of complaint is untruly surmised, And without that that the prior of St. Oswald's made any acquittance of 5*li.* as also in the bill is alleged, And without that that the prior of St. Oswald's contrary to any agreement law or conscience sued any writ of *fieri facias* for having execution forth of the same, And without that that any other thing alleged in the bill of complaint and material to be answered unto within this answer is not confessed and avoided or traversed is true as in the bill of complaint is alleged. All which matters — — — [*etc. Plea for discharge with costs*] — — —

[*Latin*].

And the aforesaid Aluredus prior of the monastery of St. Oswald now the defendant sets in his place Ric. Welles as his attorney to gain or lose against James prior of Gysburgh.

798. 42. *Knyghtley Freke*

The Replication of James prior of Gysborne in the County of York to the answer of Alverey prior of St. Oswald's in the same County.

The prior of Gysborne saith that the bill of complaint is certain and sufficient in the law to be answered unto and the matter therein contained true and not unjustly surmised and exhibit. And further saith as he hath said in his bill of complaint that the prior of St. Oswald's and his predecessors without the assent of the patron or Ordinary were seised of one annuity or pension of 10*li.* going out of the church or parsonage of Lythe in the County of York and not of the yearly pension or annual rent of 24*li.* yet nevertheless the prior of St. Oswald's sued for the *scire facias* against the prior of Gysborne in content [?] of the church of Lythe out of the feigned record recovery and judgement, well knowing that the recovery and judgement was had and taken by covin upon a feigned title and the Ordinary privy to the same against all law and conscience, and well perceiving and knowing that neither he nor any of his predecessors were ever seised of the annuity of 24*li.*, and he being instructed of the same as well before the action or suit of *scire facias* sued forth as after the action or

suit taken by good evidence shewed to the prior of St. Oswald's, which he then and there confessed and fully agreed with your orator that he would not take or demand of your orator any more pension than the yearly pension of 10*li.*, and upon the agreement 5*li.* in full contentation of the half year's rent or pension, making your orator one acquittance of the same, mentioning in the acquittance the sum of 12*li.* for the half year's rent, yet nevertheless the prior of St. Oswald's proceeded in his *scire facias*, your orator nothing mistrusting that he would have so done or procured any such judgement by default as he did, considering that he was fully satisfied and granted before that by no law nor conscience he could so do, your orator nothing mistrusting that he would call upon any such judgement contrary to his promise before made not regarded the suit, but the prior of St. Oswald's, nothing regarding his feigned title nor his promise before made, subtly unknown to your orator called upon judgement in his *scire facias* and so by default obtained judgement therein against your orator against all law and conscience, and since the recovery so had contrary to the agreement final end and custom the prior of St. Oswald's now of late sued forth a *fieri facias* to execute the judgement in manner and form as in the bill of complaint is alleged, without that that the prior of St. Oswald's and his predecessors without time of mind of man hath had and of right ought to have one certain rent or annual pension of 24*li.* going forth of the church of Lythe as in the answer is untruly alleged And without that that there is any writing duly made and sufficient in the law to be shewed that will prove or bind your suppliant to pay any more pension than 10*li.* and further your suppliant saith that before Mast. Larke's resignation Mast. Larke nor yet any of his predecessors before him never paid above 10*li.* pension and that the 10*li.* paid after the resignation was not for that Mr. Larke....pension upon his resignation was very great, but the 10*li.* pension then paid was only for because that of right there was never any more paid nor yet of right ought to be paid. All which matters.....[*etc.*]

[*Plea that the prior of St. Oswald's may be required to make a sufficient discharge of the judgement and recovery, and for dismissal of the complainant.*]

798. 43. [*Partly faded*].

The Rejoinder of Alverey prior of St. Oswald's in the County of York to the Replication of James prior of Gysborne in the same County.

[*The prior of St. Oswald's repeats his* Answer *and claims the whole pension of* 24*li., and not* 10*li. only; denies unlawful or subtle or malicious action; maintains all his statements in the* Answer *and pleads for discharge.*]

Hampole Priory.

47. E.C.P. 202. 6. [*English*] [*Mutilated and stained*].

[A.D. 1493–1500].

To — — — John Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Humbly beseecheth — — — dame Lucy FitzWilliam widow, executrix of the testament of John FitzWilliam late of Attewyk in the County of York, Esquire,.....upon great trust and confidence that he had in one Isabel[1] then and now prioress of the House of Hampole in the same County delivered unto the prioress certain jewels plate and householdstuff.....deeds and evidences concerning certain lands which John had for term of years which term yet [en]dureth and to your oratrix belongeth safely to be kept for the use of John Fitz-.....when the prioress or her successors should be thereto lawfully required, the certainty of which jewels plate or householdstuff and the evidences be to your oratrix unknown other-.....made between the prioress and John FitzWilliam testifying certain jewels plate householdstuff and divers evidences not naming parcels of any of the premises to be delivered to the prioress to keep to the use of John to be redelivered whensoever he or they should require the same, And also by the report of them which were present when the jewels plate and other premises were delivered, the delivery whereof to .....denieth not, And after that John made and declared his last will and thereby amongst other willed certain and great deeds of charity to be done for the soul of him and specially of his .....great part of his substance And for the performance of the same his will assigned such jewels plate and householdstuff with other premises which all were in the keeping of the prioress And also.....in the keeping of other divers persons towards the performing of his will ready to be shewed and of the same his last will he ordained and made your oratrix his executrix and died, since whose decease.....the testament before the Ordinary of that country and hath since that time often times and many required the prioress to deliver to her the jewels plate and other premises which yet be in her hands and the deeds.....yet the same or any part thereof to deliver the prioress hath at all times hitherto refused and yet refuseth contrary to all right and conscience and to the great hindrance and performance of.....

[1] Isabel Whateley, prioress A.D. 1483 to her death in 1503.

forsomuch as your oratrix knoweth not the certainty nor what manner of jewels nor the certainty and what every piece of plate so delivered was nor the contents of the evidences — — — [*Plea for Writ* sub pena] — — —

Endorsed :—.....in the Octave of Holy Trinity next coming.

Healaugh Park Priory.

48. E.C.P. 632. 27. [*English*]

[A.D. 1529–1532].

To — — — Sir Thomas More Kt., Lord Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — George Fullerne gentleman that where George is seised of and in three messuages ten tofts a hundred acres of land 40 acres of meadow two hundred acres of pasture and three score acres of wood with the appurtenances in Lyttyll Rybston and Plompton in the County of York in his demesne as of fee by just title and lawful conveyance in the law So it is that divers and many evidences charters and muniments concerning the premises are come unto the hands and possession of Richard[1] prior of the monastery of our Blessed Lady and St. John the Evangelist of Helaugh and your orator hath oft and many times required the prior to deliver the evidences charters and muniments unto your orator which to do the prior at all times hath refused and yet doth contrary [to] all law right and good conscience And forasmuch.....[*etc. No remedy at common Law because no certainty of the number etc. of the deeds — — — Plea for writ* sub pena] — —

Pledges : John Doo of London, Hosier
John Coo of the same, Girdler

[*Latin*]

Let there be made a brief of sub pena against John[2] prior of Helaug to appear before the Lord King in his Chancery by attorney.

[Sir Thos.] Moore Kt. Chancellor

49. E.C.P. 679. 26. [*English*]

[A.D. 1529–1532].

To — — — Sir Thomas More, Kt., Lord Chancellor.

[1] Richard Roundale, prior A.D. 1520. Last prior.
[2] Sic.

In most humble wise sheweth and complaineth — — — Thomas[1] Abbot of the monastery of our Blessed Lady of Salley that where your orator in the right of his monastery is person and parson of the church or advowson of Tadcaster by good just and lawful appropriation and advowson had and made, the which your orator and all his predecessors as parson and parsons of the same church of Tadcaster time out of mind hath been seised and in lawful possession of certain tithes called the Great Tithes and Less Tithes to be taken in certain lands and tenements called Haganby whereof Richard[2] prior of Helaugh Park as in the right of his Priory of Helaugh Park is now seised, the which lands and tenements called Haganby beyond time out of mind have been within the precinct and parish of Tadcaster And where also a true composition was had and made between the predecessors of your orator and [the] predecessors of the prior of Helaugh Park by their mutual assent and agreements by the space of 60 years now past by..... [*rubbed*].....concluded between the said predecessors that the predecessor of your orator in recompense of their tithes should have take occupy and enjoy to him and his successors for ever a certain close called Barkers Close which then did belong and appertain to the Priory of Helaugh Park, of the which Close your orator and other his predecessors as in the right of their church of Tadcaster hath been seised by virtue of the mutual agreement and composition, And after Richard now prior of Helaugh Park not contented with the agreement but chiefly intending to procure suit and contentation between him and your orator concerning the Close and also to detain and withhold the tithes from your orator contrary to all right equity and good conscience hath entered into the close and thereof not only did and yet doth take the profits but also doth ever since his entry withhold and detain the tithes which he and other his predecessors by long time hath contented and paid to your orator and his predecessors, Whereupon your orator for the recovery of his tithes hath conceived and commenced suit and process in the spiritual Courts at York against the now prior Wherein the now prior of Helaugh was likely in short process to be there lawfully condemned, Whereupon the prior perceiving himself to be in such jeopardy of condemnation by his great means and labour and by their great intercession meditation continual suit and desire of the prior and other his friends procured the suit and contentation concerning the premises to be taken up and thereof some good just and friendly conclusion to be had betwixt the parties, Whereupon your orator and the prior at the instance and mediation of his friends compromitted themselves by their several faith and oath unto other to stand to abide and fulfil the award ordinance and judgement of Christopher Dimesby and Percival Otley arbitrators indifferently betwixt them

[1] Thomas Bolton, abbot of Salley, A.D. 1527 to ?
[2] Richard Roundale.

elect and chosen to award ordain judge and deem as well in and upon the right title and possession of the tithes as all suits costs and charges in any wise had by the occasion of the same as in and upon all other matters and causes whatsoever they were spiritual or temporal, had moved or stirred between the parties, the which award ordinance and judgement in and upon the premises by the arbitrors to be given your orator and the prior either of them to other then faithfully promised to perform fulfil and keep in every point according to the award, Whereupon the arbitrors by great and mature.....and by the very mutual assent and concord of the parties did make their award under such manner and form following that is to say that your orator should immediately discontinue his suit contentation and process then depending between the parties And that the prior and his successors should content and pay yearly to the abbot and his successors 3*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in full recompense and satisfaction of and for the tithes which were of right due to the abbot, and also that the prior should content and pay to your orator 40*s.* for the full recompense of such arrearages as then were due to your orator for the tithes, and further that the prior should be from thence discharged and clearly acquitted of the suit against him conceived and for all the costs and charges of your orator by the occasion aforesaid in any wise expended and bestowed in and about the suit and contentation concerning the tithes, and further that Indentures of Covenants sufficient in the law containing the effect and true meaning of the award should be made and demised between the parties which Indentures each of them to other interchangeably should seal and deliver as their deed, which award ordinance and judgement of the arbitrators concerning the premises as is aforesaid was then openly declared and pronounced by the arbitrators to the parties in every point article and degree as is aforesaid, which award ordinance and judgement the now prior then faithfully promised well and truly in every point to perform and fulfil according to the true meaning of the same, upon trust of which faithful promise of the prior in accomplishment of the award did withdraw and discontinue his suit and process concerning the premises according to the same award to great loss costs and and damage, trusting that the prior likewise would have done for his part And after the prior not only craftily perceiving that he was discharged of the same suit wherein he was likely to be condemned but also nothing regarding his faithful promise in that behalf concerning the articles of the award wilfully in most froward and untrue fashion hath and yet doth not only clearly refuse and renounce to accomplish or fulfil any article of the award which on his part were to be holden and fulfilled contrary to his promise and contrary to all right equity and justice but also to seal make and deliver to your orator any Indentures of covenant containing the articles of the award, albeit that he hath been thereunto lawfully sundry times required and desired

So it is good Lord that your orator upon the great confidence of the premises on his part to have been performed hath withdrawn and discontinued his suit and process then depending against the prior trusting that the prior would have performed the award on his part according to his faithful promise made, whereby he is driven newly to conceive and begin his suit for the recovery of his right interest and title of and for the tithes And forasmuch as your orator hath no specialty nor other writing testifying and proving the promise nor also any other remedy by the course of the common law to compel the prior to hold perform and fulfil the award and ordinance of the arbitrators concerning the premises nor also his faithful promise aforesaid he is without remedy by the course of the common law — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

679. 27. [*Latin*]

Copy of Commission from the King, dated — Feb. 23 Hen. VIII, to John Pullon, Esq. and William Tawytts, Esq., to take the answer of Richard, prior of Helaugh, to the plea of the Abbot of Salley, since the prior is unable to answer in person through illness, and to certify the King in Chancery of their proceedings.

697. 28. [*English*]

The answer of Richard prior of Helaugh Park to the bill of Complaint of Thomas abbot of Sawley.

The prior saith that the bill of complaint is untrue uncertain and insufficient in the law to be answered unto And the matter therein contained and specified is craftily and untruly feigned and imagined against him by the now complainant to the only purpose and intent to put him to wrongful vexation trouble costs charges and loss of goods without any ground or cause reasonable And also if the contents of the same bill were true as they be not it were matter determinable part by the course of the common law of this Realm and part at the spiritual law and not in this Court, whereunto he prayeth to be remitted, Nevertheless the advantage thereof to him saved And for declaration of truth the same defendant saith by protestation not knowing of any such appropriation or advowson as is alleged in the bill of complaint or that the same plaintiff and all his predecessors were seised and in lawful possession of a certain tithes called the Great Tithes and Less Tithes in the lands or tenements called Haganbye as is there also supposed or that the lands and tenements called Haganbye be or any time out of mind of man hath been within the precinct and parish of Tadcaster as is further supposed in the same bill of complaint or that any composition was made betwixt their predecessors by their

mutual assent for a close named Blaisshe Close And now is called Barkers Close by your complainants as is there also supposed in the same bill of complaint or that the same plaintiff or any of his predecessors were seised by force of any such composition as is also supposed But for plea the defendant saith that the predecessors of the same defendant successively time out of mind of man hath been seised of the same close called Blaisshe Close as in the right of their monastery and thereof always hath taken the issues and profits peaceably without that that the same plaintiff hath taken the issues and profits of the same for any such cause as is untruly supposed in the bill of complaint And without that that the same defendant made any intercession suit or labour by himself or any of his friends to procure any spiritual suit taken against him to be taken up concerning the premises as in the bill of complaint is also untruly supposed Or that they compromitted themselves in manner and form as is also supposed in the bill of complaint or without that that there is any other thing in the bill of complaint material to be answered unto other than before is well and truly answered confessed and avoided or traversed true All which matters the same defendant is ready to prove as this honourable Court will award and prayeth to be dismissed out of the same with his reasonable costs which he hath wrongfully sustained in this behalf.

50. E.C.P. 827. 32–37. [*English*]

[A.D. 1534].

827. 32.

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley — — —

— — — sheweth — — — Richard[1] prior of the monastery of our Blessed Lady and St. John the Evangelist of Helagh, that where one Christopher late prior of Helagh and predecessor to your orator was lawfully seised in his demesne as of fee in the right of his monastery of and in one messuage three tofts 60 acres land 6 acres meadow 10 acres of pasture 10 acres of wood with the appurtenances in Lytell Rybston and Plumpton in the County of York unto [*i.e.*, until] one Thos. Fulborne the elder wrongfully and without judgement disseised Christopher late predecessor to your orator And so being thereby disseised died After whose death the messuage 3 tofts and other the premises came to the possession of one Geo. Fulborne, against whom your orator did sue out of the King's High Court of Chancery a writ of *entre en le* ..... against Geo. Fulborne returnable before the King's Justices of his common place, supposing by the writ that George had no entry into the

[1] Richard Roundale.

premises ..... one Thos. Fulborne the younger unto whom Thomas the elder made a demise, the which Thomas the elder wrongfully and without judgement disseised the predecessor..... [but] George pleaded that Thomas the elder disseised not the predecessor And a perfect issue joined upon the same And by the order of the common award ..... to your orator, Whereupon your orator as yet can have nor obtain judgement because the Sheriff that should have returned the Habeas corpora put in the same writ before the Justices of Nisi prius And made no return upon the same, For the which cause your orator sued a new writ of *entre in the p'ps Cu*..... against George, in the which the parties were at an issue, which issue was also found for your orator And judgement given upon the same, by force of which judgement your orator entered and was seised of the premises according to his just and lawful title, And in trust to have enjoyed the same your orator to his great costs and charges did 'ere' and sow the 60 acres with wheat barley oats and other grains, after which emblements of the 60 acres Geo. Fulborne sued a writ of Error in the King's Bench and reversed the judgement for that the issue in the last action was not well joined in the default of the counsel of the prior, And Fulborne [was] restored unto the premises, by the reason whereof your orator is like to lose the emblements and other costs and charges that he hath sustained in trust to have enjoyed the Emblements, unless your lordship's goodness be to him shewed for saving of his emblements ..... [*Plea for injunction against Geo. Fulborne and all other persons not to prevent the complainant if he 'rip' mow and cut down and carry away the emblements, and for the defendant's appearance in Chancery*].

Skrymsher.

827. 33. [*Latin*]

Copy of Commission from the King to Fra. Frobussher to take the evidence of Geo. Fulborne in answer, and to certify the King.

Dated 12 Feb. 25 Hen. VIII.

827. 35.

Interrogatories on the part of the prior of Helagh Parke to examine George Fulborne upon an Injunction for taking in corn contrary to the Injunction as appeareth by a bill of complaint of the same exhibited at the suit of the Prior.

First whether Geo. Fulborne sold the emblements growing in and upon the lands and tenements in Rybston and Plumpton before the judgement reversed in the writ of error and before that he had knowledge of the Injunction to him directed and also to

whom the emblements were sold and what money he had for the emblements and by whom it was paid.

Item, who gave him first knowledge of the Injunction and by whose means or maintenance George was so bold to disobey the Injunction.

Item, whether George was restored to the possession of the lands and tenements in Rybston and Plumpton aforesaid by the King's writ of restitution thereof or ..... whether the said Fulborne made any sale bargain or feoffment of the lands and tenements before the Injunction to him delivered or any time after and to whom and what manner of person or persons he hath made any sale bargain or feoffment of the lands and tenements in Rybston and Plompton unto and also where and what time the possession was delivered and who were present and by whom the livery of possession was made and to what use and intent the livery was made and what money was paid for the same and when and by whom the money was paid.

Item, whether he took any money of Master Lacelles or by any other person by his procurement and means upon any bargain and sale of the lands and tenements in Rybston and Plompton having the writ of error betwixt the prior and Geo. Fulborne or that he paid [?] unto any money at any time for the maintenance of Fulborne's title against the prior in the writ of error or at any time since.

Item, by whom the possession was received at the time of the restitution made to Geo. Fulborne by the King's writ and who were present.

827. 34. [*English*]

Depositions taken at Syghton the 16th day of April the 25th year of the reign of our Sovereign lord King Henry the VIIIth by me Francis Frobiser by virtue of the King our Sovereign lord his Commission to me direct to examine Geo. Fulberne of certain interrogatories laid against him by the prior of Helaghe for disobeying an Injunction, which depositions here followeth.

First the said George saith that he sold the corn at Ribston and Plumpton before he had any knowledge of the Injunction to Master Lassells for 3*li.* and after the judgement reversed by the writ of Error.

Item he saith that after he had sold the corn one servant of Sir Thos. Johnson, Kt., brought him a writ, what it was he knows not and he saith he delivered it to Sir Robt. Mauncell his priest and what he did therewith he knoweth not.

Item the said George saith that his priest Sir Robt. Mauncell brought him certain writings when he was sore sick in his bed and certain money, to what value he knows not, and he saith he sealed the writings but what was contained in them nor what

persons was named in them he knoweth not, nor what time it was he knoweth not.

Item he saith that he never had no money of Mast. Lassels for the lands and tithe nor of none other by his procurement.

Item he saith that the possession at the writ of restitution was retained by Robt. Armestede tenant to the said George.

827. 36.

The Answer of Geo. Fulbern to the Bill of Complaint of the prior of Helegh.

Geo. Fulbern saith that the Bill of complaint is uncertain — — — Nevertheless for further answer and declaration of truth — — — Geo. Fulbern saith that long before the Injunction to him directed he Geo. Fulbern had bargained and sold all the corn and grain growing upon the lands and tenements in Lytill Rybston and Plumpton to Roger Lassels as lawful it was for him to do without that that the said Anthony Askham Robt. Holme Thos. Rood Geo Tattersall Willm. Parke Robt. Ball Jas Hardwyke Wm. Marshall Chris. Atkynson, Thos. Fisher, Wm. Fawsett or any of them by the means exciting procuring or commandment of Geo. Fulbern letted or disturbed the prior to sell and carry away the corn growing in and upon the said ground as in the bill of complaint is untruly alleged and without that that A. Askham and the other defendants in the bill of complaint named did sell cut down and carry away the corn growing upon the ground by the means procurement exciting or commandment of Fulbern as in the bill of complaint is untruly alleged and without that that Fulbern or any other by his means exciting procuring or commandment in any manner of ways hath meddled ('mellid') or intromitted or any other in his name hath intromitted or meddled with any manner of corn or grain growing upon the lands and tenements mentioned in the bill of complaint contrary to the Injunction as in the bill of complaint is also untruly alleged and without that that there is anything material to be answered unto and in this answer not confessed and avoided or traversed true. All which matters etc.

827. 37. [*Latin*]

A copy of 827. 32.

Ebor. Between the prior of Helaugh and Fulberne.

51. E.C.P. 881. 31. [*English*]

[A.D. 1538].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth — — — Sir Rich. Rondale of the City of York clerk, late prior of the late suppressed monastery of Helaugh in the County of the City of Yorke that whereas your orator was in the late commotion time enforced and compelled against his will by the Commons to enter into the late monastery, one Sir Thos. Wharton Kt. exhibited a bill of complaint unto the King's most honourable Council established in the North parts surmitting and alleging by the same that he was lawfully possessed for term of certain years yet not expired by force of the King's most gracious letters patent under the seal of his Court of Augmentation of the Revenues of his Crown of in and upon the site of the late monastery and the demesnes thereof And also of in and upon certain goods and chattels then being in and upon the premises to the value of one hundred pounds sterling that is to say 7 geldings and mares a fat cow 40 quarters of wheat twenty quarters of rye three score quarters of barley thirty quarters of oats one hundred quarters of beans forty fat swine and of other implements of household as pots pans and spits, the which goods and chattels Sir Thos. Wharton surmised and said were taken spoiled and conveyed from him in the late commotion time by your orator and others named in the bill of complaint, for restitution recompense and satisfaction whereof your orator and one Sir John Buctrowte priest were committed to ward to the Castle of Yorke by the Rt. Hon. Robt. Bishop of Llandaff Lord President and others of the King's honourable Council, where they remained until such time as they agreed with Sir Thos. Wharton for the goods for the which your orator standeth bounden by his deed obligatory to pay unto Sir Thos. Wharton the sum of one hundred marks sterling in full recompense satisfaction contentation and payment of and for all and singular the premises and notwithstanding that your orator had no part of the goods but only meat and drink for himself by the space of 3 weeks that he remained in the late monastery, yet he is compelled to take an end for the whole and to take his remedy over against the residue of the spoils, And forasmuch as it is provided and ordered by our sovereign lord the King and others of his most honourable Council by the order for restitution of spoils that first all and singular person and persons whatsoever they were that had or took any goods or chattels in the late commotion time by way of spoil should restore again all such goods and chattels as came to their use or else make condign recompense and satisfaction thereof And if the goods and chattels so spoiled were so dispersed ['sparsed'] and delivered that it could not be perfectly known in whose hands they remained or to whose use they came unto that then all and every person and persons being present at the spoil should become contributor every one for his part to and for the restitution and payment of the spoil, So it is right honourable lord that divers parcels of the goods and chattels aforesaid for the which your orator hath been compelled to agree and compounded

with Sir Thos. Wharton for came to the hands and custody and possession of one Sir Henry Jenkinson of Harbourgh in the County of Leicester Clerk, one of the late Canons of the late monastery, with other of his brethren by the space of 20 weeks and more and had the rule and governance of the corn and other goods aforesaid the parcels whereof hereafter ensueth, First 19 quarters and 7 bushels [of] wheat price 9*li.*, 8 quarters and 5 bushels of rye price 6*li.* 2*s.*, 14 quarters and a half of barley price 3*li.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, 8 quarters and 2 bushels of oats price 41*s.* 6*d.*, 31 quarters 15 bushels of beans price 7*li.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, 40 fat swine and a fat sow price 6*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, the which goods and chattels the defendant converted and employed to his own proper use and behoof and will in no wise make restitution and recompense thereof, although he hath been thereunto divers and sundry times required and desired by your orator, but that to do the defendant hath utterly refused and yet doth against all right equity and justice And contrary to the order taken for spoils And to the great hurt loss damage and impoverishment of your orator for ever being charged for the whole And forasmuch as the defendant is not commorant nor abiding within the province of the King's Commission within the North parts therefore your orator is without remedy for recovery of the premises and so is like to continue to his utter undoing for ever unless your good lordship's favour and aid to him be shewed and provided in this behalf. In tender consideration whereof — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Sum. 35*li.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

52. E.C.P. 934. 54. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533–38].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth — — — Richard[1] prior of the monastery of Our Lady and St. John the Evangelist of Helaugh Parke in the County of the City of York that whereas your orator is seised in his demesne as of fee in the right of his monastery and church of and in 3 messuages 6 tofts 200 acres of pasture and 60 acres of wood with their appurtenances set lying and being in Lytell Ribston and Plompton in the County of Yorke And so being thereof seised one Geo. Fulberne by the unlawful maintenance of one Roger Lassells Esq. hath of late pretended title unto the same messuages tofts and other the premises with their appurtenances And by reason of the feigned and pretended title unto the same the said George the 20th day of July in the 22nd year of the reign of our sovereign lord the King that now is of his own mere wrong entered into the

[1] Richard Roundale, last prior. This plea ought obviously to precede 881. 31, but appears in Bundle 934, 53 Bundles out of place.

premises and took the profits thereof against all right and conscience, Whereupon your orator according to the King's laws truly and —lly recovered the messuages and other the premises with their appurtenances against George by good and lawful trial in several assizes in the County of Yorke And ..... your orator came into the King's Court of Chancery and there purchased a writ of *entre en le p. and cu.* against George Fulberne returnable in the Common ..... process therein continued until the parties were at issue and the Jury appeared and found for your orator to be his right and lawful title by reason of his [monastery and] church, And upon the recovery in the writ of entry your orator sued a writ of *habere facias seisinam* directed to the Sheriff of the County of York th-..... to put your orator in seisine of the premises ..... your orator seised and in possession and took the profits unto the 15th day of May last past, that George Fulberne hath entered into the premises and thereof by the maintenance of Lasselz to the intent to defraud your orator of his right in the premises hath enfeoffed Robt. M-[ynnel] Esq. Robt. Spence Gabriel Wayrethropp gentlemen Ralph ..... gent. James Fox Edwd. Hausforth James Duffelde Owen Coker Wm. Barker Wm. Smyth Thos. Smyth John Jakeson and Anth. Askham, which feoffees being ..... friended in the County, to have to them and to their heirs for ever. Upon whose possession your orator did re- ..... as lawful was for him to do And also divers evidences muniments and writings concerning the premises be come to the hands and possession of Robt. Mynnel and other his cofeoffees And forasmuch as your orator knoweth not the number nor certainty — — — [*etc.*] — — — he is therefore without remedy by the due order of the common law. And so it is most honourable lord that upon the entry Robt. Mynnel and other his cofeoffees by the maintenance and bearing of Roger Lassels and by colour of having the evidences charters and writings hath now arraigned assise of *novell disseisin* against your orator of the messuages and other the premises with their appurtenances And by reason of having of the same Lassells and ..... the assise be so considered together that your orator can have no indifferent trial concerning the premises. May it therefore please your most honourable lordship the premises tenderly considered And in consideration that your orator hath recovered the premises three times, that is to say two times by several assises and the third time by [writ of] entry as is above said, by reason whereof the very title of the premises hath been well and sufficiently tried according to the King's laws, with the which trials ev-..... may ought to be contented and to avoid open bearing and 'perinrye' in the premises. May it therefore please your good lordship [— — — *etc. Plea for writs* sub pena *severally, and for injunction to allow possession to the Complainant*] — — —

Roger Cho-[mley]

Hull, Charterhouse.

53. E.C.P. 141. 92. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93 or 1504–1515, probably the former].

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Sheweth — — — Ralph[1], prior of the Charterhouse of St. Michael beside Hull in the County of York that whereas the late prior of the said place, predecessor to your orator, upon a four years past let to farm to one William Waude certain lands meadows pastures and a wind-mill for certain years between them agreed, yielding and paying unto your orator yearly during the said years 10*li.*, the which William faithfully promised to content and pay according to their agreement, whereunto your orator giving credence never desired any writing to be made between him and William in that behalf nor any bond nor surety for the payment of the yearly farm, And so it is, good and gracious lord, that William intending to defraud your orator and his place took all of the goods and chattels from the grounds of the same your orator to be had there being and going a certain season before the years expired, to the intent your orator should not have anything there which he might distrain for the rent due for the premises then being unpaid, which was the sum of 5*li.* and above; and forasmuch, good lord, as there is no manner of writing of the said lease whereby your orator can have any advantage at the common law against William for the return of the sum of 5*li.*, your orator is thereby without remedy unless the awe of your grace be to him shewed. — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena]

Pledges : Robert Princop of London, yeoman
William Knyvet of the same.

54. E.C.P. 141. 93. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93 and 1504–1515].

The same form of words as in 141. 92, except that the tenant here is Thomas West, who is bound to pay 10*li.* rent on lands and a wind-mill and owes 5*li.*

Pledges : William Coplay of London, yeoman
William Harnyd of London, yeoman

[1] Unrecorded.

55. E.C.P. 241. 69. [*English*]

[A.D. 1500–1501].

To the — — — Bishop of Sarum, Keeper of the King's Broad Seal.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — William[1] prior of the Charterhouse at Hull that where as one Symonde Deane ought and as yet oweth unto the prior 45*s.* for payment and contentation whereof one Sir Robert Ogram Priest became debtor and fastly promised on faith and truth to content and pay 45*s.* aforesaid at midsummer last past unto the prior, which money has been oft times since demanded and required And as yet can not be had And so it is my Lord that Symonde has delivered and paid unto Sir Robert in money and pennyworths to the value of the sum of 45*s.* and above to the intent that Sir Robert should pay to the prior his duty of 45*s.* which he at all times refuses to do and yet denieth against all right and good conscience, Wherefor please it your good lordship in that your orator is a poor religious man and not apt nor meet to sue your common law, whereas in this case he can have no good action nor quick remedy — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges for prosecution John Dooe
Richard Rooe

Before the King in his Chancery at Easter next.

Jervaulx Abbey.

56. E.C.P. 69. 278. [*French*] [*Dirty and torn*]

[XIV and XV *c.*].

..... [Chan]-cellor .....

Meekly beseecheth the abbot of Jervaux that whereas one Henry de Chambre pursues divers plaints of debt and trespass and other feigned and lying actions by him sought in the Court of Burton in Lonesdale by cunning and agreement between him and Gilbert de Bibbynges Seneschal of the Court and one John Kenton who is outlawed for murder and felony against the said abbot on purpose to vex him and put him to great labour costs and losses in the same Court without cause; which Seneschal will not suffer the prior to make any attorney for him..... — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Christopher Boynton
Robert Danby

[1] Unrecorded.

57. *See* St. Agatha's [Easby] Abbey. E.C.P. 670. 44.

58. E.C.P. 785. 21—24. [*English*]

[A.D. 1534].

785. 21.

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley — — —

— — — sheweth — — — Robt. Eysterby of the town of Bransby within the County of York yeoman that whereas one Thomas Eysterby his father was seised of and in three tenements six oxgangs of land 20 acres of pasture 10 acres of meadow and common for all manner of cattle in the town and fields of Bransby aforesaid with the appurtenances in his demesne as of fee and so seised died seised, after whose death the premises with the appurtenances descended unto your orator as to the son and heir of Thos. Eysterby, by reason whereof he was thereof seised accordingly in his demesne as of fee simple, And so hath always continued. So it is, most good and honourable lord, that divers evidences charters writings and muniments concerning the lands and tenements with the appurtenances be come unto the hands and possession of the abbot of Jarves and Thos. Swadell monk unto the abbot and Alice Eysterby servant unto the abbot or elsewhere as they by subtle craft have put them to the intent to put your orator to vexation and trouble — — — [*etc. Usual clauses of refusal to restore, ignorance of number etc. of the evidences, no remedy* — — — *Plea for writs severally* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : { Ric. Stanys
{ Alex. Grene

..... for Easter one month. Ric. Palmer.

785. 22.

[*A copy of* 785. 21, *in a better hand, but without pledges or endorsement.*]

785. 23.

The answer of Alice Esterby to the bill of complaint of Robert Esterby.

The said Alice saith that the bill of complaint is untrue — — — [*etc.*] — — — And for further answer she saith that she had custody of certain pieces of evidences concerning certain lands in Bransby which she delivered to one Thos. Delaryver Esq. for to be safely kept and for no other cause All which matters

Alice is ready to prove — — — [*etc., Plea for discharge with costs*] — — —

785. 24.

The answer of Adam[1] abbot of the monastery of our Blessed Lady of Jervaux and Dayn Thos. Swaldaill monk of the same monastery to the bill of complaint of Robt. Esterby.

The said abbot and Thomas say that the bill of complaint is untrue — — — [*etc.*] — — — And for further answer, if they be compelled by the orders of this Court to make answer they say that as concerning any evidences charters writings and muniments concerning the inheritance of the said Esterby specified in the bill of complaint that they never had custody of any such evidences [*etc.*] from the beginning of this world unto this 6th day of June in the 26th year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIII as by the bill of complaint untruly is surmised And without that that the defendants delivered or put the evidences and other the premises into the custody of any person or persons to put Esterby to vexation cost or trouble as by the bill of complaint also is untruly surmised, All which matters the Abbot and Thomas are ready to prove — — — [*etc., — — — Plea for discharge with costs.*] — — —

[*Latin*]

The said abbot and Thomas put in their place Hen. Wyncott as their attorney to win or lose in the premises etc.

[*Endorsed ; Latin*]

By me Thom. Fulthrop, Esq.

Killingwoldgrave Hospital.

59. E.C.P. 591. 65. [*English*]

[After 1524 A.D.].

To — — — Thomas, Cardinal, Archbishop and Chancellor.

Complaineth and sheweth — — — Christopher Wilson[2]

[1] Adam Sedbar, last abbot, A.D. 1533-1537.
[2] Unrecorded.

clerk now Master of the poor Hospital of Kylwoldegarvet lying within the County of York and within your like Jurisdiction of Beverley that whereas one Sir Thomas Bell clerk about the 6th day of February in the 15 year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIIIth without any lawful title or interest entered and usurped into and upon the possession of the Hospital and in the midst of the night of the 6th day he brought a wain to the Hospital and loaded the wain full with divers goods and chattels of the value of 30*li.* or thereabouts being the very goods and chattels of the poor Hospital, and the same wain so loaded drove it away where it pleased him and still yet he retaineth and keepeth the goods and chattels from your servant master of the Hospital and also at the same time he took divers evidences charters and muniments concerning the lands and tenements of the Hospital and forasmuch as your servant and Chaplain knoweth not the certainty of the goods and chattels nor also the certainty of the evidences charters and muniments ..... [*nor how they are enclosed, therefore no remedy at the common law — — — Plea for writ* sub pena].

per me John Palmer

— — — in the Quindene of Trinity next.

Kirkham Priory.

60. E.C.P. 5. 122. [*French*]

[A.D. 1404–1423].

To — — — the Bishop of Durham, Chancellor of England.

Supplicate very humbly John Bulmer and Margaret his wife that as they as of right of Margaret were seised in their demesne as of fee before and at the passage of last passage ['al passage darrein passage'] of our very sovereign lord the King in his Duchy of Normandy in two closes containing a carucate and a half of land and 5 acres of land with the appurtenances in the township of Levening in the County of York and continued in this possession, until in the month of October last past one Richard Otley[1] prior of Kirkham and Richard Bonfay his fellowmonk with 80 persons with them armed and arrayed in manner of war and violence ousted and disseised the suppliants from the said land and their several crops growing in their several lands That is to say in the closes, with their horses on the common, oxen, and cows, did drive and scatter them. Please it your gracious lordship — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena, *recovery of possession and damages*].

Pledges : James Strangways.
John Scotte, gentleman.

[1] Prior A.D. 1408 to 1426 at least.

61. E.C.P. 292. 10. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William, Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Humbly beseecheth — — — John Chapman and William Wright the younger that where one Thomas[1] prior of Kirkham and the convent of the same place by their deed sealed with their common seal let to ferm to one Master John Carver Doctor and John Bawne the parsonage of Hoton upon Derewent with certain lands rents and tenements in the same town late in the holding of Thomas Welborn for certain years yet to come as in the same Indenture more plainly appeareth, which Master Carver and John Bawne since that have bargained and granted their part and interest in the premises to your beseechers and by reason thereof your beseechers since the time of the bargain and grant have had and occupied the same and have during the said time well and truly contented and paid the rent and ferm of the same reserved upon the lease. So it is now gracious lord that by covin between the prior and one Sir John Gower Kt. intending by sinister means to cause your orators to leave the ferm or other to put them to such unreasonable and excess charges that they shall not be able to occupy the same but if it should be to their great loss and undoing And to the same intent they surmise the lands and tenements to be holden of Sir John by certain rent and suit to his Court of his manor of Hoton and by colour thereof the prior by covin between him and Sir John is amerced at every Court, at some Court 13*s.* 4*d.* and at some Court 20*s.* [*and*] of and by covin between them distrain your beseecher for the same And lately cause Thomas Constable to distrain and take at divers times four draught oxen of your Beseecher for the same, which Thomas wrongfully keeps the oxen and will not suffer them to be delivered by replevy but if your beseecher should pay unto Sir John the amerciaments And also pay unto him 2*s.* 4*d.* for every time that he took the distresses So that your beseecher by covin between the prior and Sir John and Thomas shall be driven to pay the unreasonable amerciaments and impositions or else to leave the ferm contrary to all right and good conscience and to their great undoing but if your good and gracious lordship be shewed to them in this behalf. — — — [*Plea for writs* sub pena].

Pledges : { Willm. Atkynson de London yeoman
Thos. Wilks of the same yeoman.

[1] Thomas Bawtre, prior A.D. 1504 to 1518.

62. E.C.P. 302. 62. [*English*]

This plea contains an incidental reference to a corrody "going out of the monastery of Kyrkeham" to Roger Bett, late of the City of York, Draper, which he farmed with a house and shop in Kirkham, 6 July 23 Hen. VIII (1531), to James Dobynson. No details of the corrody are given.

63. E.C.P. 373. 59. [*English*] [*Much mutilated, about half torn away*].

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William ..... and Chancellor.

..... lordship your poor orator William Wodcok ..... of fee of a messuage and of 3 oxgangs of land lying in Westowe (?) ..... evidences charters and muniments concerning the same be come ..... F..... one Thomas[1] prior of the monastery of Kirkham ..... divers times required the delivery of the evidences ..... at all times hath refused and as yet to do ..... forsomuch as your orator hath no certainty ..... enclosed he is by the course of the ..... — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : William Doo of London grocer
Ric. Roo of the same yeoman.

64. E.C.P. 561. 40. [*English*]

[A.D. 1529 or 1530].

To — — — Thomas Lord Cardinal — — — and Chancellor.

In most humble wise sheweth — — — Thos. Rawghton of Thwyng in the County of York clerk where the prior of the monastery of Kyrkham in the said County was seised in the right of his church and monastery in his demesne as of fee in the parsonage of Garton in the same County of York And so thereof being seised by his deed indented the 10th day of April in the 17th year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIIIth the same parsonage demised and let to farm to one William Rawghton to have and to hold the parsonage to William with all lands tithes and other profits thereunto belonging for term of 3 years then next following yielding and paying therefor yearly to the prior 7 score quarters of malt and forty quarters of wheat payable in the feasts of St. Michael the Archangel and Easter by even portions, for the rent whereof and for the performance of divers other covenants promises and grants contained in the deed indented to be performed on the behalf of William one Henry Rayshall and other were

[1] Thomas Bawtre.

bound to the prior by their deed obligatory in the sum of one hundred pounds at the desire and request of William And thereupon Henry Rayshall desired William that he would find Henry surety to save Henry harmless against the prior And thereupon William desired the complainant to be bound to Henry Rayshall to save him harmless against the prior At whose desire the complainant was bound to Henry by his deed obligatory in the sum of one hundred pounds to save him harmless against the prior And after Henry in the second year of the lease came unto the complainant and shewed him that William should have great loss in the farm And was sore decayed in the first year whereby Henry thought that he should be in great danger of his bond against the prior, Henry desired the complainant to move William that Henry might occupy the farm the residue of the years which was 2 years then to come And the complainant should be discharged of his bond And have his bond delivered to be cancelled Whereupon the complainant moved William to let Henry have the rest of his years of the farm at whose desire William was contented so to do and thereupon Henry entered into the farm and occupied the same by the space of two years Whereby according to his promise the obligation wherein your orator was bound ought to have been delivered to him And this notwithstanding Henry hath commenced an action of debt upon the obligation against your orator at the common law whereby your orator is like to be condemned In consideration whereof forasmuch as your orator hath no matter of discharge to plead in the action of debt upon the obligation against Henry Rayshall by the order of the Court — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena *to proceed no further in the action for debt*] — — —

Pledges : Willm. Ryng of London tailor
John Doo of the same, yeoman
Hynde

— — — on the Morrow of Martinmas next.

E.C.P. 561. 41. [*English*] [*Defaced by damp: the end largely illegible*]

Babthorpe

The answer of Henry Rashawe to the bill of complaint of Thomas Rawghton clerk.

The said Henry saith that the bill of complaint is insufficient in the law to be answered unto and the matter thereof only feigned of malice and ..... trouble Henry and for delay of his reasonable and just suit against Thomas Rawghton and the advantage thereof to hinder the same. Henry saith true it is that the prior of Kyrkham was seised of the Church and parsonage of Garton in his demesne as of fee and the same did let to William Rawghton for

the term of ..... years paying therefor yearly Seven score quarters [of] malt and forty quarters [of] wheat in manner and form as in the bill it is supposed And for the performance of the payment and other covenants comprised in the Indentures of lease of the parsonage betwixt the prior of Kyrkham and William Rawghton, Henry Rashawe and also Thomas Stokes Robert Fox and Christopher Byrdlyngton at the especial request and desire of the complainant and William Rawghton Herre Rashawe and Thomas Stokes Robert Fox and Chris. Byrdlyngton were bound by their deed obligatory to the Prior in the sum of 100*li*. And for saving harmless of the ..... and other his fellows afore named of their bond to the prior the complainant and others were bound to Henry and other his fellows above named by their deed obligatory [in a] like sum of 100*li*. And after William Rawghton in the second year of his lease did not pay unto the prior such ..... of grain and ..... [as] in the Indenture were specified by reason whereof the prior pursued one action of debt against Henry and other his fellows above named upon the obligation ..... [by] reason whereof Henry and his fellows were compelled to yield and pay unto the prior the corn and other duties comprised in the Indenture ..... Second year of the lease at which time corn in the same parts by reason of the great dearth and famine that were in the said parts was at a market ..... price as long before hath not been seen Whereupon for the recovery of their loss hurt and impoverishment that they ..... [were ?] at ..... by ..... untrue demeanour of William Rawghton, Henry Rawghton and other his fellows abovenamed did .... sue the action of debt against the ..... upon this injunction was awarded as lawful was for them to do and doth stand with order and good conscience, which ..... that the ..... year desired William Rawghton that he might occupy the ..... [*the rest not coherently legible*].

65. E.C.P. 662. 15. [*English*]

[A.D. 1529–1532].

To — — — Sir Thomas More, Kt. Lord Chancellor of England.

In most humble wise sheweth and complaineth — — — Edward Power gentleman son and heir of Richard Power gentleman deceased that where Richard in his life was seised of and in a messuage and 80 acres of land meadow wood and pasture with the appurtenances in Malton in Rydale in the County of York in his demesne as of fee and so seised thereof died seised after whose death the premises descended and of right ought to descend to your orator as son and heir to Richard by virtue whereof your orator is thereof seised in his demesne as of fee So it is good and gracious lord that divers evidences charters and muniments

concerning the premises be come to the hands and possession of the prior of the monastery of Kirkham [and John Paynton *inserted*] of whom your orator hath often and many times required delivery of the evidences charters and muniments which to do he hath at all times denied and yet doth contrary — — — [*etc. no remedy at the Common Law because no certainty of the number etc. of the deeds — — — Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Rich. Dover of London, cutler
Rich. Doo of the same yeoman
per John Tubbe

— — — on the Morrow of the Purification of the Blessed Mary next.

Kirkstall Abbey.

66. E.C.P. 18. 175. [*English*]

[A.D. 1449–1452].

To — — — John, Cardinal and Archbishop of York and Chancellor.

Beseecheth meekly — — — John Cotford of London, mercer, that where William[1] abbot of Crystall owed unto Herry Gray, Kt., Lord of Powys, 28*li.* of money for his property of the fee farm of the manors of Berdesey and Colyngham in the shire of York pertaining unto the said Lord; the same Lord Gray for certain money that he owed unto your beseecher assigned the same 28*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* [*sic*] unto him for his payment of his money and delivered unto him under writing ensealed with his seal a sufficient warrant for the abbot to pay the 28*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* unto your beseecher, and the abbot of the 28*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* against the Lord to be discharged by the same warrant for the payment thereof; with the which assignment and warrant your beseecher afterwards sent unto the abbot William Phelippes his servant, which warrant William declared and shewed unto the abbot, praying and desiring him to pay and con[-tent] unto your beseecher the 28*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* by force of the warrant, and offered to deliver unto the abbot upon the payment thereof the warrant for his discharge against the Lord; whereupon the abbot feigning himself to be well willed to content and pay unto your beseecher the 28*li.* and to deliver unto him the warrant, and promised upon his faith and worship that he would content your beseecher of the residue thereof at his coming to London, the which should be within short time after; at the which

[1] William Grayson, abbot *c.* 1450 to *c.* 1467 or 1468.

desire of the abbot the servant of your beseecher, trusting the abbot to have been true and faithful of his promise, received at that time of him but 10 marks in part of payment of the 28*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and delivered him the warrant; and now it is so that the abbot utterly refuseth to content and pay unto your beseecher the residue thereof, contrary to his promise, but of wrong and against conscience sueth an action of account against your beseecher for the receipt of the 10 marks, and also hath caused a man of his to sue your beseecher at Lancaster, where he never came, and hath him there in exigent to right great hurt and vexation of him. Wherefore — — — [*etc. Plea for writs* sub pena] — — —

67. E.C.P. 18. 178. [*English*]

[1 Sept., 1449–1452].

To — — — John, Cardinal and Archbishop of York and Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth meekly your poor bedeman John Cotford of London, mercer, that where the Lord Powes by his sufficient warrant assigned to your beseecher to receive of the abbot of Cristall 28*li.* due to the said Lord of a manor that Lord Powes let to ferm to the abbot in the shire of York, the abbot received the warrant and paid to John Cotford 10 marks and then agreed him to pay the remnant and after that the suppliant required the abbot to pay the remnant of the 28*li.*, but keeps he the warrant of discharge with him, And also the abbot against right and conscience hath conceived an action of account against John Cotford for the receipt of the 10 marks; wherefore your suppliant is at great hurt and loss and without remedy at common law without your gracious lordship be shewed in that part. Wherefore — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

68. E.C.P. 19. 294. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[1 Sept., 1449–1452].

To — — — my lord Cardinal and Archbishop of York and Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseeches William[1] abbot of the monastery of our Lady Saint Mary of Kirkstall that where as John Croukshawe of Aton, Henry Croukshawe and Richard C..... County of Chester with divers other fellowships and rioters and in manner of war arrayed by divers times have come now [of] late to divers manors

[1] William Grayson.

and possessions of the said ..... of York and there has taken the goods horses ['avers'] and cattle of the abbot without cause reasonable, to the right great hurt of the abbot and convent and ..... and grieves the abbot and threatens to do him bodily harm and to damage him and his monastery by such wrongs, extortions ..... time have done and which things so to be continued in malice and by extortion is like to be the utter destruction to the monastery but if it be in ha-..... by your wise and gracious discretion. Please it to your gracious lordship and fatherhood to consider these premises and to grant a Commission directed to Cante-..... Thomas Blount Esquire and also to the Sheriff of the shire of Stafford, giving them in commandment to arrest and take John Croukshawe, Henry Croukshawe and Richard Croukshawe and bring them before your gracious lordship to be ruled as for the peace and tranquillity of the abbot and his monastery ..... conscience requires.

69. E.C.P. 36. 104. [*English*]

[A.D. 1464–70, or 1479–82].

To — — — the Archbishop of York, Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth meekly your poor and continual orator John Cotford of London, mercer, that where William abbot of Cristall — — —

[*etc.*; *a copy of* E.C.P. 18. 175].

70. E.C.P. 235. 62. [*English*]

[A.D. 1493–1500, and 1515–1529].

To — — — my lord Cardinal, Chancellor.

In the most humble wise show unto your grace your daily bedemen Thomas Hopton and William Hopton gentlemen that where the Abbey of Our Lady of Kyrkeshall in the County of York is of the foundation of the King's, our sovereign Lord's, noble progenitors, and that the abbot and convent of the same Abbey ever since the foundation thereof have granted and of right ought to grant by their sufficient writing under their common seal a corod or sustentation out of the Abbey to such person or persons as the King our sovereign lord or his noble progenitors for the time being Kings of England have written to them for the same to have and to occupy the corrody to the person or persons for their life or their lives, and that the King our sovereign lord that now is, by his letters under his Great Seal directed to the abbot and convent of the monastery bearing date the 23rd day of

January the 11th year of his noble reign reciting where Roger Hopton gentleman, usher of his Chamber, which had one corrody or sustentation in the monastery at the desire of King Edward the fourth, was in will to restore to the abbot and convent their letters patents to him thereof made to the intent that the abbot and convent should make their other letters patents to your orators of the corrody and sustentation, and desired of his grace to give his assent to the same, and his Grace agreeing to the desire of Roger sent unto the abbot and convent praying them if Roger restored unto them their letters patents that they would grant unto your bedesmen the corrody and sustentation to have to them for time of their lives and to make your beseechers their letters patents of the same as in the writing more plainly appeareth. And the abbot upon the sight of the writing of our sovereign lord granted and faithfully promised to your orators to make to them the letters patents of the abbot and convent of the corrody and sustentation according to our sovereign lord's desire as soon as Roger restored the letters patents of the abbot and convent made to him of the corrody: Whereupon Roger restored to the abbot and convent their letters patents made to him and after that your beseechers divers times have desired the abbot to make to them their letters patents of the corrody according to our sovereign lord's desire and he utterly denieth so to do contrary to his promise and to the great hurt and hindrance of your bedesmen. — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges for prosecution John S.....
William .....

Before the King in his Chancery in 15 days of Easter next coming wherever etc.

71. E.C.P. 516. 2. [*English*]

[A.D. 1518–1529].

To — — — Thomas, Cardinal, Legate, Primate and Chancellor

In most humble wise sheweth and complaineth — — — William Gascoigne kt. that where he is seised of the manor of Gawkethorp with the appurtenances within the County of York in his demesne as of fee so it is gracious lord that divers evidences escripts and muniments concerning the manor with the appurtenances be come to the hands and possession of one John[1] abbot of the monastery of our Blessed Lady of Kyrkestalle within the County of York of whom your orator hath divers and many times required delivery of the evidences charters escripts and muniments which to deliver John the abbot hath at all times refused and yet doth against all reason equity and good conscience And forasmuch

[1] John Ripley, last abbot, A.D. 1528 (second term).

as the number and certainty — — — [*etc., no remedy at the common law* ..... — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —
per S. Grymshawe
Pledges : Willm Jackson of London, draper
Rich. Jonys of London, yeoman.
— — — on the Octave of S. John Baptist

St. Robert's Friary, Knaresborough.

72. E.C.P. 276. 34. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

In the most humble wise showeth — — — Henry Arthyngton and Mawde his wife Edward Goldesburgh John Goldisburgh George Goldisburgh Anne Goldisburgh Alicia Goldisburgh and Iueyt Goldisburgh that where your orators and one Robert Warcopp submitted themselves to abide the ordinance award and judgment of in and upon all manner of actions suits quarrels debts debates and demands had or moved between your orators and Robert Warcopp of one Robert[1] the minister of St. Robert of Knaresburgh John Sleyngisby and other and for the sure performance and accomplishment to be had and performed of the party of Robert the same Robert Warcopp was bound by his deed obligatory unto Sir William Middilton kt. and Walter Long gentleman in the sum of 500 marks to the use and behoof of your orators if the award, ordinance and judgment of the arbiters were not performed and kept on the part of Robert And the obligation was delivered to the minister of St. Robert's upon great trust and confidence that your orators had in him that he should deliver the obligation unto Sir William and Walter Long jointly if Robert Warcopp did not perform the award on his part And so it is, good and gracious lord, that the Arbitrators made award between your orators [and Robert Warcopp *struck out*] that Robert Warcopp should pay or cause to be paid to Edward John and George Goldisburgh yearly during the nonage of one Thomas Goldisburgh 12*li.* and that Robert Warcopp should pay unto Iuett ..... marks and also that the same Robert Warcopp should pay unto Henry Arthyngton and Mawde his wife 20*li.* as more plainly it appeareth by the award And so it is good and gracious lord that Robert Warcopp nor no other person nor persons for ..... since the

[1] Robert Tesshe, Minister, A.D. 1499 to *c.* 1529.

award made or at any time before hath contented and paid unto your orators nor any of them the sums aforesaid nor no part thereof Wherefore your Orators hath often time since the award made required the minister of St. Robert's to deliver the obligation unto Sir William and Walter jointly which to do at all times the minister hath refused and yet refuseth And in that the obligation was not made unto your orators but only the duty thereof in conscience appertaining unto them they be therefore without remedy — — — [*etc. Plea for writs* sub pena].

73. E.C.P. 314. 11. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To ..... William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Sheweth humbly — — — Elizabeth Goldesburgh that where as she is seised of a messuage and 20 acres with the appurtenances in Goldesburgh in the County of York in her demesne as of fee, So it is good and gracious lord, divers evidences charters obligations and muniments concerning the same be come to the possession of one Robert Tesshe minister of the house of St. Robert of Knaresburgh in the County aforesaid and notwithstanding that your orator hath oft times required to have deliverance of the evidences and obligations and them to deliver the minister hath denied and yet denieth against all right — — — [*etc. no certainty of number, or whether in box — — — etc. — — — Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : John Smith of London mercer
Robt. Harttell of London Tailor
— — — in the Quindene of Hilary next.

74. E.C.P. 716. 15. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533–1538].

To — — — Sir Thomas Audeley, Kt., Lord Chancellor.

In most humble wise complaineth and sheweth — — — Sir John Aleyn Kt., That where he is seised in fee simple of and in the manors of Hawnby, Clynt, Hoterryngton in Muston and Fele in the County of York together with all messuages lands tenements meadows "lesures" pastures woods rents reversions and survivers to the manors and to every of them pertaining or belonging by reason of a bargain and sale before time made of the manors lands and tenements among other lands and tenements by one Christopher Coo late of Lyn Bysshop in the County of Norfolk gent. deceased to your orator and which manors lands and tene-

ments among other lands and tenements the said Christopher Coo had by reason of a bargain and sale made to him by Thomas Bekwyth late of Inkerston in the County of Essex deceased late very owner of all the manors and other the premises as brother and right heir to William Bekewyth deceased But so it is most gracious lord that divers evidences charters writings and muniments concerning the manors lands and tenements be in the possession and custody of one [*blank*] Kent[1] minister of the house of St. Robert of Knaresborough by colour of possession of which evidences the minister pretendeth title to certain of the premises and vexeth and troubleth your orator of the possession and occupation of the same against right and conscience, delivery of which evidences your orator divers and many times hath required of the minister But that to do he at all times hath refused and yet refuseth Wherefore and forasmuch as your orator knoweth not — — — [*etc.* — — — *ignorance of certainty, etc.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

E.C.P. 716. 16. [*English*]

The answer of Thomas Kent minister of the house of St. Robert of Knaresburgh to the bill of complaint of Sir John Alleyn, Kt.

The said minister for answer saith that divers evidences charters writings and muniments concerning the manors of Hawnsby Clynt Hoteryngton Muston and Fele are enclosed in a chest locked And the chest so being locked about the 13th year of the Reign of our sovereign Lord the King that now is was delivered by one Thomas Oggylsthorpe by the commandment of Thomas Beckwith named in the bill to one Oswald Benson[2] late minister of the said house safely to keep to the use of Thomas Beckwith and his heirs. And ever since the chest and evidences hath remained in the house of St. Robert, And for that the chest is so heavy and so great that Thomas Kent cannot bring the chest in to this honourable Court the said Thomas Kent minister is ready to deliver the chest and evidences to whom and at such place as this honourable Court shall award And prayeth to be dismissed out of the same with his reasonable costs and expenses.

E.C.P. 716. 17. [*English*]

As in 716. 15. down to — — — [l.—] — — — muniments concerning the manors lands and tenements be in the possession and custody of Thomas Bekwyth a bastard son of William Bekwyth by colour of possession of which evidences Thomas Bekwyth

[1] Thomas Kent, A.D. 1529-1536.
[2] Apparently unrecorded.

the bastard surmising himself to be heir to William Bekwyth maketh title and claim to the manors lands and tenements And the farmers of your orator of the lands and tenements divers times have vexed and distrained against all right and conscience — — — [*etc. as in* 716. 15.]

Curson.

E.C.P. 716. 18. [*English*]

To — — — Sir Thomas Audley, Kt., Lord Chancellor.

In most humble wise complaineth and sheweth unto your good lordship your daily orator Sir John Alleyn, Kt. That where by an Indenture made between Christopher Coo gent. on the one party and your orator on the other party The said Christopher for a certain sum of money by your orator to him well and truly contented and paid Christopher bargained and sold unto your orator and to his heirs for ever all those his manors of Hawnby Clynt Hoteryngton Muston and Fyle with all the members thereunto belonging or appertaining set lying and being in the County of York with all and singular other his meases lands tenements meadows leasures pastures woods waters commons rents reversions and survivers with the appurtenances to the manors or any of them belonging And all other his lands tenements reversions and services with all and singular their appurtenances as well freehold as customary and copyhold lying and being in the Forest of Knaresbourgh in the County of York with all such interest right title and ..... as he had in the same and all and singular deeds evidences charters copies of Court Rolls rentals escripts and muniments concerning the manors meases lands tenements and all other the premises or any part or parcel thereof as by the said Indentures as ..... other things more plainly appeareth All which manors meases lands and tenements and other the premises Christopher Coo had afore that time bought of one Thomas Bekwyth deceased by force of which bargain and sales made Christopher Coo was seised of all the manors messuages lands and tenements and other the premises to the use of your orator and his heirs And so it is right honorable lord that divers evidences deeds writings copies Court Rolls and rentals concerning the premises be come to the hands and possession custody and keeping of Maud Bekwyth widow mother to Thomas Bekwyth by having of which evidences deeds writings and muniments Maud not only pretendeth and maketh title unto the chief mansion place of the manor of Clynt and also to the copyhold lands lying in the Forest of Knaresburgh but also claimeth the third part of all the residue of the manors lands and tenements But by what title your orator knoweth not And by reason of the feigned title Maud by the space of 6 or 8 years last past hath received and yet receiveth and

taketh the issues rents and profits risen grown and coming of the lands and tenements being copyhold in Knaresburgh aforesaid And also occupieth and enjoyeth without colour of right as well the chief mansion place of the manor of Clynt as the third part of all the residue of the manors lands and tenements and will not suffer your orator to intromit nor meddle therewith to the great hurt and losses of your orator And now notwithstanding that your orator hath divers and many times required Maud Bekwyth to make delivery unto him of all the evidences deeds copies court rolls rentals and other writings concerning the premises and to suffer your orator to have and enjoy the manors lands tenements and other the premises ..... [*torn*] ..... the bargain made between him and Christopher Coo yet that to do she utterly hath refused and yet refuseth against all right and conscience for lack of which evidences deeds and writings your orator cannot sufficiently maintain any action at the common law for the recovery of the premises — — — [*etc.* — — — *ignorance of certainty* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena *and to prevent defendant from meddling further with the possession of the manors etc.*] — — —

Curson

E.C.P. 716. 19. [*English*]

Similar plea by Sir John Alleyn, Kt., Alderman of London, for the manors of Otrington and Hawnbye against Maude Snasell widow late the wife of Thomas Bekwith of Clynt deceased, and Lambert her son, who have wrongfully entered upon the manors, decayed and wasted them by the space of 12 years to the value of 200*li.*, and taken the issues rents and profits to the value of 9(?)*li.*, and also got possession of deeds.

E.C.P. 716. 20. [*English*]

Similar plea by the same for the manor of Hawnby, against Thomas Slyngesby and Joan his wife, late the wife of William Bekwith elder brother to Thomas Bekwith, whose heir Thomas Bekwith was.

Malton Priory.

75. E.C.P. 755. 1. [*English*]

[A.D. 1532–3].

To — — — Sir Thomas Audeley, Kt., Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

In most humble wise showeth — — — Robert Copland that whereas one Thomas Copland father to your orator was seised of and in one messuage called Bayldon Place, one other messuage or burgage in New Malton in Old Malton Gate, of and in 2 gardens 4 selions of arable and 10 acres of pasture and also of the pasture of one cow otherwise called a cowgang called the pasture in the Carre with their appurtenances in Malton in Rydale Sutton and Norton next Malton in the County of York in his demesne as of fee and so being seised of the premises died by protestation seised, after whose decease the premises descended and of right ought to descend and come unto one Thomas Copland priest deceased as son and heir of the said Thomas Copland his father and afterward Thomas Copland the son enfeoffed your orator of and in the premises with their appurtenances to have and to hold to him and his heirs for ever by force whereof your orator entered into the premises and thereof was seised in his demesne as of fee So it is honourable lord that divers evidences escripts charters and muniments concerning the premises be come into the custody possession and keeping of one William[1] prior of the monastery of Old Malton in the County aforesaid, by colour of having of the which evidences the prior hath conveyed divers secret estates to divers personages to your orator unknown to the use of him and his monastery to the intent to make the premises mortmain and so by his mighty and extort power intending utterly to disherit your orator and his heirs of the premises for ever And furthermore without any just right title or interest having in or to the premises hath entered into the premises and the issues revenues and profits thereof coming and growing amounting to the yearly value of 46*s.* 8*d.* by year by the space of 6 years and above wrongfully and extortly hath taken and perceived and daily taketh and perceiveth and compelleth the tenants thereof to pay to him the rents and other issues and profits thereof coming and growing and in no wise will suffer your orator to occupy have and enjoy the premises nor take the issues and profits thereof, And albeit that your orator divers and many times hath required as well the prior to deliver to him the evidences escripts charters and muniments concerning the premises as also to avoid the possession of the premises and to suffer your orator to take and perceive the issues revenues and profits thereof coming and growing and also to pay to him the arrearages of the premises hitherto incurred and by him wrongfully perceived and taken, which to do at all times he hath refused and utterly denied contrary to all right and good conscience, Wherefore honourable lord, forasmuch as your orator knoweth not the certainty — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : John Hamlynde of London, yeoman.
Ric. Halstarde of London, yeoman.

[1] Not recorded.

— — — on the Morrow of All Souls next.

76. E.C.P. 874. 29. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533–1538].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley — — —

— — — sheweth — — — Bartholomew Penny that where of late your orator for the sum of 13*s.* 4*d.* in money had and borrowed of one Dan William prior of the house of Our Lady of Olde Malton in Rydale in the County of Yorke, your orator laid and delivered to the hands of the prior certain evidences charters and muniments contained in a box enclosed together, safely to be kept by the prior to the use of your orator unto such time as your orator should repay again to the prior the sum of 13*s.* 4*d.* in manner and form aforesaid, albeit good lord your orator hath many and divers times since offered payment to the prior of the 13*s.* 4*d.*, requiring redelivery again of the prior of his evidences charters escripts and muniments, which to do the prior utterly hath refused and yet doth refuse, And forasmuch as your orator hath no bond nor yet bill obligatory of the hand of the prior for the redelivery again of the evidences charters and muniments your orator is without his remedy herein by course of the common law. In consideration whereof — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — — Bardeshawe — — — in the Octave of Michaelmas next.

Marton Priory.

77. E.C.P. 73. 98. [*English*]

[XIV and XV Cent. Perhaps *c.* A.D. 1436].

[*No address*]

Humbly beseecheth your good lordship your poor orator Thomas Smyth that where Thomas[1] late prior of the House and Priory of Marton in the County of York by the common assent and will of the convent of the same by plain and perfect bargain sold unto your suppliant a wood called Craven Close in the same County of York for four score marks of lawful money to be paid to the late prior and convent, Whereupon the late prior and convent on their part and your suppliant on his part were fully

[1] Apparently an unrecorded successor to Robert de Hoton.

agreed, and thereupon your suppliant truly paid and contented to the late prior and convent to their common use the sum of fourscore marks and they thereupon faithfully promised to your suppliant to make and deliver to him a sufficient warrant and writing sealed with their common seal whereby it should be lawful to him to have manoir and occupy and free outre and utterance at his free will, without impediment or interruption of the late prior and convent or their successors, of the said wood from the day of the sale thereof made to the end of four years then next ensuing as conscience requireth; and according [*sc.* to] the bargain of the premisses made and thereupon your suppliant into the said manoirance and occupation of the wood by virtue of the bargain entered and part thereof manoired and occupied which amounteth to the 20th part of the same wood and before the time that he had manoired or occupied or any profit taken of the residue of the wood or of any parcel thereof except the said 20th part, the late prior died, before any writing or warrant of the premises made unto your suppliant; after whose death John[1] now prior of the House was elected and chosen prior of the House; the which now prior, where he often times hath been required and desired by your suppliant to have his bargain in form aforesaid utterly denies and [? refuses] your suppliant of the manoirances occupation or any profit taking of the wood utterly expels and puts out against all right and conscience. — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : William Ryther of London, Esq.
John Tesedale of London, gent.

78. E.C.P. 75. 56. [*French*]

[XIV and XV Cent.].

To the very gracious Lord the Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth Henry Lord Lescrop that whereas the prior of Marton in the County of York and Robert Cave his canon, John de Schupton and William his son and John de Elvyngton with several other malefactors unknown arrayed in fashion of war with force and arms and in forcible manner on Monday next after the Feast of the Typhayn in the eleventh year of the reign of our lord the King who now is by night debruised the Park of the said suppliant at Upsall and in the same Park without licence or wish of the suppliant hunted and his wild beasts there found with certain dogs, nets and many other engines killed, took and led away, and his servants and officers for fear of their lives dare not do their offices nor attend to their services to the wrong and damages of the suppliant of £400 and against the peace of our Lord the King. Please it — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena *to*

[1] John de Goldesborough, noted A.D. 1436 and 1439.

appear on the morrow of St. John Baptist on pain of 40*li.*]
Pledges : Richard Bokam clerk
John Grene de Com. B.

79. E.C.P. 357. 78. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor

Humbly sheweth unto your good lordship your daily orator William Stable clerk Chantry priest of the Chantry of St. Nicholas in the North part of the church of Shyryfhoton in the County of York that where your orator is possessed and seised for term of his life of the Manor of Wrelton in the same County as in the right of the Chantry, and divers evidences muniments and other writings concerning the Manor be come to the hands and possession of one John[1] the prior of Marton in the said County And your orator hath oft and many times required — — — [*etc.* — — — *clauses declaring the prior's refusal to deliver and the plaintiff's want of remedy by ignorance of the certainty* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena]
Pledges : John Danyell of London gentleman
Willm. Corneburgh of the same, yeoman
— — — in the Quindene of Hilary next.

Meaux Abbey.

80. E.C.P. 29. 159. [*Latin*]

[*c.* A.D. 1404].

To — — — the Lord Bishop of Exeter, Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth humbly the General Chapter of the Cistercian Order whereas Robert de Burley[2], Abbot of the monastery of Fountains, and Thomas de Burton, pretended abbot of the monastery of Melsa of the same Cistercian Order in Yorkshire, in wanton defence of the excesses and errors which Brother Robert, abbot of Fountains, committed concerning the vicious promotion of Thomas to abbot of Meaux contumaciously opposed themselves and wilfully made insurrection with a great band of secular persons in contempt of and against the peace of our lord the King and in scorn of their Order and of religion, with force of arms and

[1] John Catterick, prior A.D. 1519 to ?
[2] Abbot of Fountains, A.D. 1383 to 1410.

with gates shut and with ambushes set making a fortress of the Abbey of Meaux did wantonly resist and drive away the abbot of the monastery of Roche ['Rupe'], the Visitor and reformer of their monastery of the Cistercian Order in the province of York, and the abbot of Gerondon associated with him threatening the abbots of Roche and of Gerondon and their servants with mutilation and slaughter, and also they put down with force and arms within their monastery the prior, sub-prior and convent of the Abbey of Meaux because they wished to obey the Reformer according to the statutes of their Order and to resist these forfeits and abuses; and also the abbots of Fountains and of Meaux received a certain Sigismund a foreign monk coming into England with a certain pretended power to cite the abbots of the Order, lieges of our lord the King, to a certain pretended General Chapter outside the kingdom of England, and did send the said monk out of the kingdom with many gifts of gold and silver and other jewels, against the gracious concession of our most holy Father the Pope for the protection and special inhibition of our King; wherefore may it please the Venerable Father the Lord Chancellor to grant special briefs to the Sheriff of Yorkshire to make the abbots of Fountains and of Meaux to come with their accomplices before you and the Council of our lord the King to answer wherefore they have presumed in manner as aforesaid; may it please also the Venerable Father to renew in another form a certain especial protection and inhibition of our lord the King elsewhere graciously conceded to the abbots of Boxley, Stretford and Griis delivered here and to grant a special brief to the Sheriff of Yorkshire that he may make proclamation of this protection and inhibition in the City of York, in Beverley and Rypon and in all other markets within the County lest the contumacious abbots of Fountains and Meaux or other lieges of our lord the King may assume the rash and daring boldness of making insurrection against the Visitor and reformer and other Inquisitors and Judges of their Order aforesaid. In the way of charity.

The names of those secular persons who have made insurrection with the abbots of Fountains and Meaux.

John Rednes
William Constable
Amandus Veel
John de Towton
John Taleor
} of Holdernes

Roger Mawdit of Fountains, and many others.

81. E.C.P. 243. 32. [*English*]

[A.D. 1500–1501].

To — — — Henry Bishop of Sarum, keeper of the King's great Seal.

Humbly beseecheth your gracious lordship your daily orators John[1] abbot of Meux in the County of York and Thomas Gower gentleman that where one John Dalkyn some time Receiver of all the lordships manors lands and tenements that were the right noble Princess Margaret Countess of Richmond in Holdernesse in the said County which she had then by reason of the nonage of Edward now Duke of Bukyngham and so being her receiver was indebted to the Princess in the sum of 92*li.* of the arrearages of his receipt and for the same debt was lawfully committed to prison and so remained in prison till that one Ralph Same late abbot of Meux last predecessor of the now abbot and Thomas Gower being then at London at the special request and desire of John Dalkyn and upon faithful promise by him to them made that he should discharge and save them harmless for the debt were bound by their joint and several obligations to the Princess to content and pay the debt Whereupon the same John Dalkyn was delivered out of prison and after that having sufficient goods and far above wherewith to content and pay the debt made and declared his testament and last will and willed and declared by the same that the executors of his testament with his goods and the profits of his lands then being in feoffees' hands should content and pay and pay [*sic*] the debt and see before all things that his sureties should be discharged of their bonds for the same And of his testament and last will he made and ordained Mariory his wife and one Thomas Catarall his executors and died After whose death all his goods and chattels which were of far greater value than the debt amounted unto came to the hands of Mariory and Thomas and also they received the profits of all his lands by long space amounting to great sums so that they might as they were oft times required to do have clearly discharged the sureties of and for the debt which they have not done and so it is that the Princess hath sued an action of debt of the debt upon the obligations against the now abbot of Meux and Thomas Gower to their sore trouble and vexation and like to their undoing Which suit they have notified to Mariory and Thomas Catarall which have and had sufficient goods in their hands of John Dalkyn's wherewith they ought to discharge your orators which they do not but converteth and hath converted the same to their own uses, for which discharge in that behalf they have divers times required the executors to do yet that to do they have hitherto refused and yet refuseth contrary to all right and conscience and to the undoing of your orators for their relief Wherefore they have no remedy — — — [*etc.*] — — — [*Plea for writs against Mariory and Robert* [Thomas *struck out*] *Catarall*].

Pledges of prosecution Thomas Grene of London, yeoman.
Henry Smyth of London, yeoman.

[1] John Clapham, abbot *c.* A.D. 1488 to ?

Before the King in his Chancery in 15 days of Michaelmas next.

82. E.C.P. 895. 58. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1533–38].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth — — — Miles Staveley That where your orator 36 years past or thereabouts was [seised in his demesne] as of fee in and upon 20 acres of pasture set lying and being within the town and fields of Potterflett in the County of York and so seised 32 [years past or the-]-re abouts the 20 acres of pasture demised and let to farm unto one Thomas[1] late abbot of Mewese within the County of Yorke to have and to hold the 20 acres of [pasture to the use of] the abbot and his successors until the end and term of 20 years to be fully complete and ended, paying therefor yearly to Miles and his heirs ..... during the term 2*s.* by year, moreover at the time of making of the lease your orator delivered unto the late abbot for his further ..... of his lease of and in the 20 acres of pasture, all and singular his deeds escripts and muniments concerning his right title and possession of the same ..... deeds escripts and muniments to be redelivered to your orator and his heirs at all times, when they should require them for their necessary ['thernessetre'] maintenance of the ..... and title of and in the premises or any part or parcel thereof, Now so it is most honourable lord that your orator hath not only divers and sundry times required redelivery of the deeds escripts and muniments of one John[2] now abbot of the monastery to the intent aforesaid, which to do at all times he hath refused and yet doth refuse, but also of his further cruel and coveting mind towards your orator by the space of one years last past hath utterly denied payment unto your orator of the rent of 2*s.* by year, Moreover John now abbot craftily and against all conscience hath subverted and pulled up the boundary of the 20 acres and also hath ditched and bounded the 20 acres among the lands of his monastery, so that your orator can have no perfect knowledge where he may distrain for his rent, to the great hurt loss and damage of your orator unless it may please your good lordship to see some speedy remedy in reformation of the premises, for inasmuch as your orator knoweth not the certainty of the deeds escripts and muniments nor whether they are contained in bag box or chest locked

[1] There is a difficulty about the dating of this Plea, which makes it seem that this is included in the wrong bundle. The last abbot Thomas in the lists, Thomas Burton, died in 1437.

[2] If Thomas Burton is intended, John Sutton, 1458 to 1463, may be right here. But the Plea is addressed to Sir T. Audley as Chancellor.

nor hath any knowledge where he should distrain for his rent nor can attain his deeds escripts and muniments to maintain his action of debt for the rent and the arrearages thereof he is without remedy — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena]

Monk Bretton Priory.

83. E.C.P. 10. 121. [*French*]

[A.D. 1431–1442, or 1467–1471].

To — — — the Bishop of Bath, Chancellor of England.

Beseeches very humbly your poor orator John Frere that whereas he was seised of a messuage 7 acres of land and 3 acres of meadow in the township of Monk Bretton in his demesne as of fee and so seised enfeoffed the prior of Monk Bretton upon trust and for the great reliance which he had in him, to have and to hold to him and to his heirs, to the intent that he should re-enfeoff the petitioner of the messuage lands and meadow granted to have and to hold to him and the heirs of his body and in default of issue of his body the remainder to the direct heirs of the petitioner in fee when he should be asked or requested by the petitioner so to do, And notwithstanding that the petitioner has often and many times asked and requested the prior to make the re-enfeoffment according to the intent and trust aforesaid, Still the prior will not make the re-enfeoffment but retains the messuage lands and meadow and wrongfully takes the profits of them to his proper use, to the perpetual disinheriting and absolute destruction of the petitioner. May it please your very gracious lordship — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

84. E.C.P. 61. 292. [*English*]

[A.D. 1480–83].

To — — — Thomas, Archbishop of York, Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth your gracious lordship your daily orator Richard[1] prior of the Monastery of St. Mary Magdalene of Monkebretton that whereas one Thomas Oxspryng was possessed of divers and many evidences and muniments concerning the inheritance of

[1] Richard de Ledes, for whose priorate Baildon notes the years 1435, 1452, 1484.

your beseecher as the right of his house and also the same evidences delivered to one Thomas Wright of Sheffeld safely to keep to the use and behoof of your beseecher and for to deliver to your orator when he required them; It is so now, gracious lord, that your orator hath ofttimes required to have delivery of the evidences which to do he utterly refuseth contrary to all right law and conscience — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Henry Hunt of London, gent.
Rich. Renkyn of London, gent.

Mountgrace Priory.

85. E.C.P. 69. 144. [*French*]

[*c.* A.D. 1416].

To the very gracious and very noble Lord the Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth your poor orator Nicholas[1] prior of the House called Mount Grace of the Carthusian Order that whereas certain charters muniments and other evidences were now of late delivered to Osmund formerly prior of the same place, who is dead, by certain parties to keep them safely in the House until by assent and agreement of the parties deliverance thereof ought to be made; and so it is that one Thomas Tailboys, Esquire, comes now of late to Nicholas now prior, alleging to him by [*his* (true) *oath*] and saying that the charters and muniments belonged only to him and to none other; and because of his [*Thomas*] statement and also of his [*the prior's*] agreement which he made in this behalf the now prior delivered to Thomas the charters and muniments, supposing that his statement and oath were true; and thereupon come the other parties to the now prior and demand of him to have delivery of the charters, and they intend to sue and vex the now prior because he has delivered the charters in this manner. Wherefore he desires your gracious succour and relief — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena]

Pledges : Stephen Noble, clerk.
Thomas Samme, clerk.

86. E.C.P. 618. 4. [*English*]

[A.D. 1531].

To — — — Sir Thomas More Kt., Chancellor of England.

[1] Baildon notes Nicholas as prior in 1416.

— — — sheweth — — — Stephen Cooll that whereas he was possessed of 40*li.* sterling and that upon special confidence and trust that he had in one Humfrey his uncle at Gysboro in the County of York the 7 day of November in the 16 year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the eighth the same 40*li.* delivered to Humfrey to keep for and to the use of your orator and for and to the intent that Humfrey his executors or assigns the same to your orator upon request thereof to be made should redeliver and after Humfrey made his last will and testament and by the same ordained and made Sir John Lumley kt. Lord Lumley of the parish of Seggefeld in the Bishopric of Durham executor and died at London about the feast of Pentecost in the 20 year of the reign of our sovereign lord After whose death Lord Lumley took upon him the administration of all the goods and chattels of Humfrey as executor of Humfrey and also the 40*li.* after the death of Humfrey came to the hands and possession of Lord Lumley And so it is gracious lord that your poor orator hath often and many times made request to Lord Lumley to have delivery of the 40*li.* but that to do Lord Lumley contrary to all right and good conscience hath at all times refused and denied and yet doth to the great loss hindrance and utter undoing of your orator And forasmuch as Lord Lumley is a man of honour and of great power and your orator a very poor man not able to sue against him for his remedy by the due order in course of the common law — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena]

Chris. Conyers

Endorsed :— [*Latin*]

Memorandum that on the first of St. Hilary viz. 6 February 22 Henry [VIII] a day was given to the parties within written to introduce their witnesses to prove the matter contained within hence to the Quindene of Easter next coming by the Court. And afterwards in Easter Term viz. on the 27 April 23 Henry VIII a day was given etc. and to Easter next by the Court And further in the same Term viz. on the 8 May in the said year a day was given etc. to the Morrow of S. John Baptist etc.

E.C.P. 618. 5. [*English*]

The answer of John Lord Lumley to the Complaint of Stephen Cole

The said John Lord Lumley saith that the bill of complaint is insufficient inapt and not true to be answered unto only feigned of evil will and malice to vex trouble and unquiet John Lord Lumley and for none other cause Nevertheless for answer unto the surmised bill Lord Lumley saith that Stephen Cole was never

of his own goods worth a 4*li.* nor that he Stephen delivered unto Humfrey the sum of 40*li.* nor no penny thereof nor that Humfrey as appeareth by three of his several wills never made any such debts ..... [*torn*] ..... others his debts and bequests And further Lord Lumley saith true it is Humfrey being his servant died in London and made Lord Lumley his executor by force whereof Lord Lumley entered to parcel of his goods as lawful was for him to do And the same hath fully [ad]ministered according to the true intent and will of him Humfrey without that the 40*li.* or any parcel thereof after the decease of Humfrey did come unto the hands and possession of him Lord Lumley And without that any other things material in the bill of complaint specified and contained And in the Answer not confessed denied and avoided traversable is true All which matter Lord Lumley is ready to prove as the Court will award and prayeth to be dismissed with his costs therein sustained

E.C.P. 618. 6. [*English*]

Chidley.

The Replication of Stephyn Cole to the answer of John Lord Lumley.

The said Stephen Cole saith that the answer is insufficient and the more part thereof untrue and feigned matter compelled to bar Stephen of his demand and saith that his bill is certain and sufficient in the law to be answered unto and the matter therein contained is all of truth and further saith as in his bill he hath before said that he Stephen upon special trust and confidence that he had in Humfrey Cole at Gysburn the day and year in the bill expressed delivered to Humfrey forty pounds that is to say 20*li.* in gold and 20*li.* in silver to redeliver again unto Stephen when he should that require as by deed indented thereof made between Humfrey of the one party and Stephen of the other party bearing date the day and year above specified plainly it doth appear And after Humfrey intending the safe keeping and sure redelivery of the 40*li.* in manner and form aforesaid delivered the 40*li.* and other sums of money of his own to the prior of Mountgrace safely to keep and the same to him upon his request made to redeliver And after Humfrey made his last will and testament and died in manner and form as is before expressed after whose death Lord Lumley received of the prior of Mount Grace the 40 pounds and other sums of money to him delivered by Humfrey which in all amounted to the sum of 80*li.* or above And also saith that Humfrey at the time of his death had of his own in goods and chattels to the value of 200 marks or thereabouts which after the death of Humfrey came to the hands of Lord Lumley without that Lord Lumley hath lawfully and fully [ad-]ministered the

goods of Humfrey as he in his answer hath alleged and without that any other matter in the matter alleged being material and answerable is true all which matter Stephen is ready to prove as this honourable Court will award and prayeth delivery of his 40 pounds with his reasonable costs.

Newburgh Priory.

87. E.C.P. 81. 63. [*English*] [*Much mutilated*]

[A.D. 1486].

.....ht reverend father in God John Bishop of Ely ..... -ellor of England

..... and Chaplain John[1] prior of the Church of Our Lady of Neuburgh in the County of York ..... said Prior and his Convent be come to the hand and possession of one Richard Johnson by ver-..... about in apostacy in strange countries unknown to the prior and howbeit ..... evidences muniments and other writing yet that to do he at all times hath refused and yet refuseth ..... great hurt and impoverishing of the said place; in which case he is without remedy by the course of the common law .....-ber of the said evidences muniments and other writings nor the contents therein nor whether they be con — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : William Russil of .....
Thomas Wylson of .....

88. E.C.P. 115. 117. [*English*]

[A.D. 1505–1515].

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — Thomas,[2] prior of the Monastery of Our Lady at Newborghe within the County of York that where one John Davyll late of Coukwould within the County aforesaid yeoman lately deceased was in debt and owed to your beseecher [at] the time of his death as in the right of his Monastery eighteen pounds of lawful money English, that is to say, eleven pounds thirteen shillings and four pence parcel thereof for twenty bullocks and six pounds six shillings eight

[1] John Latover, prior A.D. 1483 to 1505.
[2] Thomas Barker, prior A.D. 1505 to 1518.

pence residue of the same for money lent unto John by your orator; after whose death great possessions of goods and chattels be fallen and come into the hands and possessions of one George Davyll and Richard Otterborne as executors of the aforesaid John Davyll, whom your orator hath divers times required and desired to content and pay the eighteen pounds for their testator, which to do the executors at all times have denied and yet deny against all right and good conscience. — — —

[*Plea for writs* sub pena].

Pledges : John Doo
Richard Roo.

Endorsed :—

Before the Lord King in his Chancery in the quindene of Easter next coming.

89. E.C.P. 151. 16. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93 and 1504–1515].

To the — — — Archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — the prior of the monastery of Newburgh how that where William Byrkhed, William North, John Caluerd, William Thornton and William Byller of old time have been farmers occupiers and bailiffs unto the predecessors of the prior as of their lands and tenements within the City of York whereof your beseecher is seised and peaceably possessed in his demesne as of fee as in the right of his monastery, so it is, good and gracious lord, that certain evidences charters Courtrolls and muniments are come into the hands and possession of William Byrkhed, W. North, J. Calverd, W. Thornton and W. Byller at such time as they had the occupation of the lands and tenements as aforesaid, concerning all the lands and tenements, the certainty whereof unto your beseecher as yet is unknown; the which your poor orator hath often and many times required of the foresaid William Byrkhed, W. North, J. Calverd, W. Thornton, and W. Byller to have delivery and they have denied that utterly to do and yet deny, contrary to all right and good conscience; and forasmuch as the said Courtrolls and all other the premises are in no chest, locked box or bag sealed your orator can have no remedy for them by the course of the common law — — —

[*Plea for writs* sub pena *severally*].

Pledges : Richard Hall of London, vintner.
William Speke of London, carpenter.

90. E.C.P. 151. 118. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486-93].

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate and Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth — — — John,[1] prior of the Church of Our Lady of Newburch there where certain evidences muniments and writings of certain lands and tenements pertaining to the right, title and inheritance of the church of Nuburgh be come to the hands and possession of one Richard Kychynman, which evidences the prior often times hath required the said Kychynman to deliver to him, which to do Kychynman utterly denieth to restore and deliver, to the intent that certain persons which make claim wrongfully to the lands and tenements may recover the lands and tenements against all right and good conscience, in which case your suppliant is without remedy — — — [*clauses declaring ignorance of nature of the deeds and in what contained*] — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : William Compton of London, cartwright.
Robert Walford of London, yeoman.

Endorsed :—

Before the Lord King in his Chancery in the Octave of St. Martin next coming.

91. E.C.P. 341. 57. [*English*]

[*c.* A.D. 1515].

Vacat quod aliter.

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — Thomas[2] prior of the Monastery of Our Lady of Newborgh in the County of York that where one Robert Wylde of the City of York merchant hath commenced an action of debt at York against your beseecher for ten pounds before the Sheriffs there, supposed to be due for certain wine wax and oil which Robert saith that he betook and delivered unto one Dan John Butler late canon of the monastery with an.....that it come unto the use of the house And thereupon is likely to recover and condemn your orator in the debt by reason of special friendship affection favour and great alliance that Robert is of in York, which is continuing and abiding there where of truth if there were any such wine wax or oil received or

[1] John Latover.
[2] Thomas Barker.

taken by Dan John Boteler your beseecher was not consenting thereunto nor it never came nor was spent and occupied to the use of the monastery like as by Robert Wylde it is supposed wherefore please it your good lordship the premises tenderly to consider and to grant a *certiorari* to be directed unto the Sheriffs of the City of York to remove the suit and all things appertaining and belonging to the same before the King in his Chancery at a certain day the next term by your Grace to be limited and to give Robert and your orator therein like day so that the matter may be there examined heard and indifferently determined as standeth with right and good conscience And he shall daily pray — — — [*etc.*] — — — from Easter Day next one month.
Endorsed [*Latin*] :—

Memorandum that in Easter Term viz. 27th April 7 Hen. VIII [1515] a day was given to the prior to produce witnesses and prove the matters contained within viz.....next peremptorily by the Court.

92. E.C.P. 342. 36. [*English*]

[*c.* A.D. 1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — Thomas[1] prior of the Monastery of our Lady at Newburgh within the County of York that where certain evidences books of accounts and rentals concerning and appertaining unto the prior as in the right of his monastery be come to the hands and possession of one Robert Wild of the City of York by the delivery of Sir Robert Kirkeby and Sir John Butler lately being canons ['Chalons'] of the monastery of which evidences books and other the premises your beseecher hath often and divers times desired delivery whereof Robert Wild hath denied and yet denieth against all right and good conscience and forasmuch as the certainty of the evidences books and other the premises unto your beseecher as yet be unknown and that the evidences books and other the premises be in no chest locked nor bag or box sealed he is without remedy by the course of the common law and over this Robert Wild by his subtle means and crafty dealing hath enticed and counselled Robert Kirkeby and John Butler canons to flee and go forth of their Religion by the reason whereof they be departed and gone into what place as yet unto your beseecher it is unknown. Wherefore — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : John Doon
Ric. Feen.

— — — for the Morrow of the Purification of the B. V. Mary.

[1] Thomas Barker.

E.C.P. 342. 37. [*English*]

The answer of Robt. Wylde to the bill of complaint of Thomas the prior of Newburgh.

The said Robert sayeth that the surmised bill of complaint is unsufficient and untrue and only feigned for vexation and of malice and trouble and matter determinable at the common law and not in this Court whereof he prayeth allowance and thereunto to be remitted, and if Robert be put to further answer for the declaration of the truth he saith that he hath no evidences books of accounts nor rentals concerning nor appertaining to the prior nor yet Robert by his subtle means and crafty dealing enticed not nor counselled Robert Kyrkby and John Butteler canons of the monastery of Newburgh to flee and go forth of their religion as in his bill of complaint untruly surmised all which matters he is ready to prove as this Court will award and prayeth to be dismissed out of the same with his reasonable costs and damages for his wrongful vexation and trouble.

E.C.P. 342. 38. [*English*]

The Replication of the prior of Newburgh to the answer of Robert Wilde.

The prior saith as he hath aforesaid in his bill of complaint and that the same bill and all and every thing therein comprised and contained is good and true without that the bill or anything therein contained is feigned of malice as it is alleged by the answer all which matters he is ready to prove as this Court will award and prayeth as he hath afore in his bill of complaint.

93. E.C.P. 660. 48. [*English*] [*Mutilated*].

[A.D. 1529–1532].

To Sir Thomas More Kt, Chancellor.

In his most humble and lamentable manner sheweth — — — the prior of the monastery of.....county of Yorke that where one Robert Gower Esquire is seised of and in seven score acres of land arable lying and being in the town and fields of Skageldonne in the said.....which hath been ever used to be a corn field arable land and put to tillage out of time of remembrance of any man to the contrary in and by all which field and lands ar-..... prior and his predecessors hath used out of time of mind to have common within the land and field at divers times in the year for

all his beasts and cattle.....and also the inhabitants of the town of Skageldonne have in like wise used to have common there and also the prior and his predecessors are and hath.....of the town of Skageldonne time out of mind and hath.....to have tithe as well corn as other and that as well in the said field as in .....places being within his parish of the town the which tithe had and taken by the prior and his predecessors is the greatest profit and advantage that he or his predecessors hath had and more worth in value to him and his predecessors than all the profits of the benefice beside and if that tithe were not the benefice were of small value and not able to find a priest to serve the church within the same parish So it is most honourable lord that now of late Robert Gower Esquire not regarding the laws of God nor the maintenance of God's service nor yet the laws and statutes of this Realm of England thereof made and provided nor the furtherance and maintenance of the Commonwealth of this Realm hath now of late after the statutes thereof made and provided improbed and enclosed the field containing seven score acres of arable land and so keepeth it still by power enclosed Whereby not only the prior being parson there hath not only lost his tithe corn which was in effect the great living of him and other parsons his predecessors there but also [the] inhabitants of the town of Skageldonne the houses and ploughs of the same are greatly decayed and more and more are like and the tenants there inhabitants shall be constrained of force to avoid and remove and divers of them [are] already departed and gone out of the town contrary to the statutes and laws thereof made and provided And also the prior and others that be tenants and inhabitants in the same town which of right ought to have common in the said enclosed ground are clearly excluded and put from their common to their utter undoing only your lordship moved with pity provided a remedy in this behalf in consideration whereof and for that Robert Gower is such a man as is greatly friended and allied favoured and supported and such a man that your complainant nor none of the inhabitants in the town dare not intromit nor meddle to cast open the enclosed ground nor can have no lawful trial in the Country against him by the order of the common law but that it is like that the trial of truth should pass against your orator — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Antony Missynden

Pledges : Rich. Fenton of London, gentleman.
Thos. Smyfford of the same, gentleman.

— — — in the Octave of Michaelmas next.

94. E.C.P. 796. 29. [*English*]

[After A.D. 1536].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley.....

— — — sheweth — — — William Fulthroppe of Eysslebeck in the County of York that where one Robert[1] prior of the house or priory of Newburgh in the said County was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in the parsonage of Thirkylby with their appurtenances in the County of York as parson or parsons in the right of his house and so being seised the prior by his deed indented ready to be shewed bearing date the 10th day of March in the..... reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIIIth demised and to farm did let unto one Vincent Metcalff and his assigns the parsonage and the appurtenances from the date aforesaid unto the end and term of 15 years then next ensuing, yielding and paying therefor yearly unto the prior and his successors 6*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* sterling, by force of which lease Vincent Metcalff into the premises did enter and was possessed thereof accordingly, and as being possessed about 6 years past assigned and granted the premises unto your orator, by force whereof your orator into the premises did enter and was possessed thereof accordingly and yearly did content yearly by the space of 6 years unto the prior the sum of 6*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* and peaceably did occupy the premises until the abbot the 6th day of July in the 27th year of our sovereign lord of his malicious and froward mind intending to vex and trouble your orator caused one Robt. Davell and certain other persons into the premises to enter and spoiled corn [?] appertaining unto your orator by virtue of the lease to the value of 10*li.*, which trespass upon the premises your orator being a very poor man is not able for that the prior is a man of great possessions and a giver of great fees to gentle men and learned men in the County that are greatly [*sic*] So that your orator cannot there sue for his rent, to the utter undoing of your orator, Wherefore gracious lord — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Wylkynson.

Nostell (St. Oswald's) Priory.

95. E.C.P. 119. 33. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93 and 1504–1515].

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth — — — Brian Bradford and Henry

[1] Surname apparently unknown.

Chapman that where divers deeds, evidences, charters and muniments concerning a messuage and a garden set and lying in Hoghton in the County of York whereof your orators is lawfully possessed and seised in their demesne as of fee, which documents and evidences be come to the hands and keeping of John[1], prior of St. Osward's in the County aforesaid, which denieth to deliver them to your orators, howbeit he hath been thereto divers times required; and forasmuch your orators know not the number nor content of the said deeds and evidences nor wherein they be enclosed they can maintain no action at common law unless your good and gracious lordship to them be shewed in this behalf — — — [*Etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges: Walter Bradford of London, gent.
William Waterton of the same, gent.

96. E.C.P. 144. 75. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93 or 1505–1515; Probably after A.D. 1505].

To the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Shew — — — Arthur Key, son and heir of George Key, and Sir Richard Woderofe, knight, guardian to the said Arthur by virtue of the King's patents, that whereas the substance of all the evidences charters and muniments concerning the right and title of the whole inheritance of Arthur be come to the hands of R.[2], prior of St. Oswaldes in the County of York, whom your orators have divers and many times required to deliver unto them the said evidences charters and muniments and that to do he at all seasons hath denied and yet denieth against all right and good conscience, and forasmuch as your orators know not the certain number of the evidences charters and muniments nor wherein they be contained, they be without remedy by the course of the common law — — —

[*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Thomas [? Aglins] of London, yeoman.
Richard Wheler of London, yeoman.

97. E.C.P. 329. 46. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To.....William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

In the most humble wise sheweth — — — Joan Kae of the County of York that whereas your oratrix is peaceably seised of

[1] No prior John appears to be noted about the dates given above. The last of the name in Baildon is John de Huddersfield or Bythbroke, who resigned in 1471.

[2] Probably either Richard Hirst (1489-1505) or Richard Marsden (1505-1524).

the manor of Wodsome and 100 acres of land with the appurtenances in Bradford Dale in the County of York in her demesne as of fee And so it is most gracious lord that certain evidences muniments and charters concerning the premises be come unto the hands and possession of the prior of the monastery of St. Oswald in the County of York and not withstanding that your oratrix hath oftimes required the prior to deliver unto her the evidences muniments and charters yet that to do the prior at all times hath refused and yet doth, contrary — — — [*etc.* — — — *no certainty of number, or whether in box* — — — *etc. Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Roo of London, gentleman
Willm Foo of London, yeoman.

— — — in the Octave of Martinmas next.

98. E.C.P. 341. 58. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William, Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth — — — Richard[1] prior of the Monastery of Saint Oswald of Nostell in the County of York that where as one Richard Hirst[2] late prior of the monastery predecessor of your chaplain and bedeman was seised in and of a messuage and forty acres of land in Hudersfeld in the said County in his demesne as of fee in right of the monastery and also possessed of certain evidences, escripts and muniments concerning the tenements and so seised of the tenements and possessed of the evidences died After whose decease the evidences escripts and muniments are come to the possession of one John Wode of Almondbury in the said County and whereof John is yet possessed of the same and after the decease of the late prior your chaplain and bedeman was elect and perfect prior of the monastery and entered into the tenements and was and yet is thereof seised in his demesne as of fee in right of the monastery And how be it gracious lord that your chaplain and bedeman hath often times required John Wode to deliver unto him the evidences — — — [*etc. Refusal to deliver* — — — *inability of plaintiff to plead by the common law, owing to ignorance of the number and custody of the documents* — — — *plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Smyth of London yeoman
Willm Hervy of the same Smith.

— — — for Easter Day next one month.

[1] Richard Marsden.

[2] Prior 1489-1505.

99. E.C.P. 348. 40. [*English*] [*One corner obliterated*].

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

In full humble wise sheweth — — — Richard Pek that where one Thomas Lacy of Pountfreit in the County of York Esquire and.....[*obliterated*].....of the same gentleman were indebted unto the prior of St. Oswald's in the said County in divers sums of money And after that the said.....great trust and confidence that he had in John bound himself unto one Mr. Robert Froste Clerk and Brian Chapman in the sum of 30 [pounds ?] .....to them in the feast of Pentecost then next ensuing to the use and behoof and contentation of the prior at which day Thomas nor John paid nor.....nor no parcel thereof And the prior caused an action of debt to be brought against your orator upon the obligation and had thereupon his process to the exigent Whereupon your orator fearing to be outlawed for the same required oft times the said John to discharge him of the payment against the prior according to his promise and to discharge him also of the process which John on no wise would do Whereupon your beseecher was glad to content the prior [in] his duty due by the obligation for saving him from the outlawry And John yet hitherto never would recompense your orator the money that he so paid nor his costs nor charges for the same but yet denieth to discharge your orator contrary to right and good conscience to his great hurt and loss and insomuch as he hath no specialty proving the covenants he is without remedy — — — [*etc.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Smyth of London yeoman
Willm. Coke of London yeoman.

— — — on the Morrow of the Purification of the Blessed Mary next.

100. E.C.P. 486. 48. [*English*]

[A.D. 1518–1529].

To — — — Thomas Cardinal, Archbishop and Chancellor.

In right humble wise sheweth and complain — — — John Constable Esquire and Jane his wife one of the daughters and heirs of Henry Sotell late of Stokfaston in the County of Rutland Esquire now deceased and William Drury Esquire and Elizabeth his wife another of the daughters and coheirs of the same Henry Sotell that where the same John Constable and William Drury

in the right of their wives be possessed and seised in their demesne as of fee of and in the Manors of Ardyslowe Clifton and Hasull with the appurtenances in the County of York and thereof peaceably take the issues and profits accordingly And so it is gracious lord that divers and many deeds evidences charters court rolls terriers and muniments concerning the manors since the decease of Henry Sotell be come and yet remain in the hands and custody of the prior of St. Oswald's And albeit that the complainants as in the right of their wives have divers and many times required the prior to make delivery unto them of the deeds evidences charters court rolls terriers and other muniments concerning the manors with their appurtenances for the conservation of their interest in the same the prior that to do at all times heretofore hath refused and yet doth refuse contrary to all right and conscience to the great loss hurt and hindrance of your orators in that behalf And forasmuch — — — [*etc. No remedy at the common law because no certainty of the number etc. of the deeds.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Lambart

Pledges : John Stiler of Whitton in County York yeoman
John Bolte of London sherman.

— — — on the Morrow of the Purification of the Blessed Mary.

101. E.C.P. 495. 5. [*English*]

[After A.D. 1505].

To — — — Thomas Cardinal, Archbishop and Chancellor.

In the most pitiful and lamentable wise shew and complain — — — Roger Dalton one of the cousins and heirs of William Flemyng, and Ralph Colynson and Katherine his wife Henry Sewall and Elizabeth his wife, two other of the cousins and heirs of William Flemyng that where one John Flemyng was seised of and in the manors of Wath Elyston Dalton and Rawdemell with the appurtenances in the County of York and the advowson of the Church of Wath in the same County in his demesne as of fee and so being thereof seised gave the manors and the advowson with the appurtenances to one Reignold Flemyng and Rosanna his wife and to the heirs of Reignold begotten of the body of Rosanna, by force whereof Reignold and Rosanna were thereof seised accordingly and so being thereof seised died of that estate seised After whose death the Manors and the advowson descended and of right ought to descend to William Flemyng as cousin and next heir of Reignold begotten of the body of Rosanna That is to say son and heir of William Flemyng son and heir of William son and heir of John son and heir of Thomas son and heir of John son and heir of Thomas son and heir of Reignold begotten of

the body of Rosanna, by force whereof William Flemyng was of the manors and other the premises seised in his demesne as of fee tail by force of the gift and William Flemyng so being thereof seised died of that estate seised after whose death the manors and other the premises descended and of right ought to descend to Roger Dalton and Katherine Colynson and Elizabeth Sewall as cousins and next heirs of the body of William Flemyng the son of William that is to say to Roger Dalton as son and heir to Elizabeth Dalton the elder one of the daughters and heirs of William Flemyng and to Katherine Colynson and Elizabeth Sewall as daughters and heirs of one Elizabeth Flemyng the younger another daughter and heiress of William Flemyng by force whereof Roger Dalton in his own right and Ralph Colynson and Katherine his wife Henry Sewall and Elizabeth his wife in the right of the wives were and yet be seised of and in the manors by force of the entail So it is gracious lord that divers charters evidences muniments and writings concerning the premises as well for the enforcing and proving of the entail as divers and many other charters muniments and writings concerning the same manors be come to the possession and hands of one Richard[1] abbot of the monastery of St. Oswald of Nostell in the County of York by occasion whereof for divers and many persons have knowledge that the charters and evidences be not in the keeping of your orators have been a great occasion and yet is that your orators have and yet be vexed and troubled by sundry feigned pretenced titles as be made to part to the premises by reason of the same to the great loss and damage and utter undoing of your beseechers and your orators divers and many times have required the abbot to make delivery to them of the charters evidences muniments and writings which to do he utterly refuseth and yet doth — — — [*etc. No remedy at the common law because no certainty of the numbers etc. of the deeds.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

No pledges.

No endorsement.

E.C.P. 495. 6.

A Copy of the above.

Hyggons.

Pledges : Oliver Cokewood late of London, gentleman
Thos. Bett of the same yeoman.

Osward Whyte.

— — — in one month from Michaelmas.

[1] Richard Marsden.

102. E.C.P. 495. 7. [*English*]

[After A.D. 1524]

To — — — Thomas, Cardinal, Archbishop and Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — William Drury and Elizabeth his wife and John Constable and Jane his wife That where as the same William and John are seised as in the right of their wives of and in the Manor of Ardesley with the appurtenances in the County of York in their demesne as of fee And so it is good and gracious lord that divers and many evidences writings charters and muniments concerning the premises with the appurtenances be come to the hands and possession of Alverede[1] prior of the monastery of St. Oswald of Nostell of whom your orators hath often and sundry times desired the deliverance of the evidences writings charters and muniments which to do the prior at all times hath denied and yet doth deny contrary to — — — [*etc.* — — — *No remedy at the common law because no certainty of the number etc. of the deeds.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : Rich. Launde of London gent.
Willm. Danie of the same, yeoman.

— — — on the Morrow of St. John Baptist next.

103. E.C.P. 708. 26. [*English*]
[*In part much faded, and defaced by rubbing*].

[A.D. 1532–1533].

To — — — Sir Thomas Audeley, Kt., Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

In most humble wise sheweth — — — orators Thomas Raynold and Elizabeth his wife late wife and executrix of the testament and last will of Walter Bradford in the County of York gentleman deceased That whereas one Richard[2] prior of the monastery of St. Oswald of Nostell in the County aforesaid and the convent of the same by their deed indented and bearing date the 20th day of January in the second year of the reign of our sovereign lord the King that now is did demise and let to farm unto one John Sekker and Emmot his wife their capital messuage in Houghton in the County aforesaid with all their demesne lands, tenements meadows and pastures with the appurtenances in Houghton aforesaid and certain pasture for cattle and navers in Pountfrett Parke with all other profits to the same messuage belonging to

[1] Alvered Comyn, prior 1524 to ?
[2] Probably Richard Hirst.

have hold and occupy the messuage and other the premises to John Sekker and Emmot his wife for the term of 30 years yielding and paying therefor yearly to the prior and convent for the same 9*li.* with this condition amongst others that John Sekker and Emmot his wife should not demise nor let the messuage and other the premises or any parcel thereof to any person without assent and consent of the prior and convent and their successors So it is gracious lord that John Sekker and Emmot his wife by the assent and good will of the prior and convent hath demised and granted his estate in the messuage and other the premises unto the aforesaid Walter Bradford and his assigns, by reason whereof Walter was possessed of the premises and did occupy the same by the space of 11 years and also thereupon hath made divers buildings and reparations to the value of 40*li.* and above beside certain corn that Walter.....to the prior and convent for their goodwill of the farm which came to the use of the prior and convent Also 10*li.* that Walter did give unto John Sekker for his goodwill by the assent of the prior.....the said Walter demised by his last will the farm to Elizabeth his wife whom he made his executrix and after died after whose death Elizabeth as well by reason of the legacy of her husband as because she was executrix to her husband occupied the farm unto now that Richard[1] the prior that now is of.....same house hath entered in the premises surmitting that the premises were granted contrary to the former .....condition afore specified [perceiving ?] your orators have no manner of writing to prove the assent of the late prior for the entering of the premises, for remedy whereof Elizabeth your complainant against whom the prior hath not only exhibited divers complaints for the occupation of the messuage and other the premises before the Bishop of Durham and other the King's Grace's Commissioners assigned.....in the North part, the which matters is yet undefended by the law, also the prior is a man of great power and might and for the most part hath retained all learned.....his counsel the matter depending before the Council.....and at the suit of the prior and yet not dismissed and other the causes aforesaid. Wherefore — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

104. E.C.P. 781. 15. [*English*]

[*Mutilated and stained*].

[After A.D. 1530].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth — — — Robt. Danby that whereas one

[1] Presumably Richard Marsden, in which case the Plea is in the wrong Bundle.

Dame Margaret late wife to.....Latymer deceased was seised of in and the manor of Notton with the appurtenances set lying and being within the County of Yorke in her demesne as of frank tenement, And she being so seised of the premises by her deed indented demised.....and to farm let to your orator the manor of Notton with the appurtenances to have to him and his assigns for his life natural as by the same deed more plainly doth appear, by force whereof your orator was thereof seised, So it is, and please your lordship, that one Alvered[1] the prior of the monastery of St. Oswald of Nostell in the County of York and one Edward Strangways gent. the 23rd day of April the 22nd year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIIIth or thereabouts entered into the premises which were so demised and to farm let to your orator and then and there did not only take away of your orator's.....and other implements of household of the very value of 6*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* or thereabouts but also took out [of] the house and manor divers evidences charters deeds writings muniments and bills obligatory concerning the inheritance of your orator without any cause or ground reasonable against all right and conscience. And forasmuch as your orator is sore diseased in the gout and not able to be a suitor in his rightful causes against the prior by reason that he is a great man of substance and riches and greatly kinned within the County, your orator is not able to attempt the common law against him for that he is maintained by the most substantial men.....so that your orator is never likely to "herrie" his matter truly against him by the common law. And forasmuch, good Lord, as your orator hath often and many times required of the prior and Edward delivery of the wain and other implements but also of the evidences [*etc.*], which to do they have at all times denied and yet do — — — [*etc., clauses of no certainty or remedy — — — Plea for writ* sub pena]. — — —

105. E.C.P. 798. 37–43.

See Guisborough Priory.

106. E.C.P. 915. 51 and 918. 47–48. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533–38].

[915. 51 *is a mutilated copy of* 918. 47].

918. 47.

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

[1] Alvered Comyn.

— — — sheweth — — — Robt. Wynke, citizen and Vintner of London That where James Wynke by good and just title was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in 5 messuages and 200 acres of land with the appurtenances set and being in Crofton in the County of Yorke And James so being of the messuages and lands seised by protestation died thereof seised, since whose death the right title and inheritance of and in the premises descended and of right ought to descend to your orator as cousin and heir of James, that is to say son of John brother to James, So it is most honourable lord [that] divers evidences charters and muniments concerning the messuages and lands be come to the hands and possession of Robert[1] prior of the monastery of St. Oswald, by reason whereof the priors and their predecessors priors of the monastery having likewise the custody of the evidences have conveyed unlawfully estates of the premises to the use of the monastery and by virtue of the same wrongfully have detained and kept the possession of the same with the rents and revenues thereof to their own uses by the space of 40 years and more, And albeit that your orator hath divers and many times required — — — [*etc. Clauses of no certainty and no remedy. Plea for writ* sub pena] forasmuch as the prior is at this time within the City of London.

918. 48.

The Answer of Robert prior of the Monastery of St. Oswald's to the bill of Complaint of Robt. Wynke citizen and vintner of London.

The defendant saith that the bill is uncertain — — — [*etc.*] — — — but for answer he saith that James Wynke in the bill of complaint named was seised in his demesne as of fee of and upon one messuage and two oxgangs of land meadow and pasture with their appurtenances in Crofton before said, and so thereof seised died thereof by protestation seised, After whose death the messuage and 2 oxgangs of land [*etc.*] descended and of right ought to descend unto Jane Agnes Isabel and Alice Wynk, by force whereof Jane Agnes Isabel and Alice entered into the messuage and other the premises with their appurtenances as lawful was for them to do and thereof were seised in their demesne as of fee by just course of inheritance as daughters and heirs of James Wynke their father, And Jane Agnes Isabel and Alice so being seised of the premises for a certain sum of money to them by one John Henryson truly contented and paid by their writing sufficient in the law ready to be shewed bargained aliened and sold all the premises unto John Henryson and to his heirs and assigns for ever, By force whereof John Henryson entered into the messuage and 2 oxgangs [*etc.*]

[1] Robert Ferrer, last prior.

and thereof was seised in his demesne as of fee, whose estate interest right title and possession of John Henryson of and in the premises the prior with sufficient authority from the King's Majesty to retain the cause by good and just title and lawful conveyance now hath and the profits thereof now taketh as lawful is for him to do, And over that the prior saith that divers evidences charters escripts and writings concerning the messuage [*etc.*] be come to the hands and possession of the prior, all which evidences [*etc.*] the prior detaineth and keepeth for the conservation and maintenance of his estate and right in the same as lawful is for him to do, without that that James Wynke in the bill named was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in 5 messuages and 200 acres of land set lying and being in Crofton within the County of York or died seised thereof — — — [*etc., denying* seriatim *the remainder of the charges in* 918. 47. *Plea for discharge with costs.*]

Nun Appleton Priory.

107. E.C.P. 342. 14. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

In the most humble manner sheweth — — — the prioress of Nunappleton in the County of York that where your oratrix be seised in her demesne as of fee of a certain messuage with the appurtenances in the City of York unto which messuage belongeth certain evidences escripts charters and muniments which is now in the custody of one John Whyte of the said City merchant, the which evidences escripts charters and muniments your oratrix hath daily desired and yet doth daily desire to have them delivered that to do John Whyte hath denied and as yet denieth to deliver the premises for so it is gracious lord that the messuage hath in traverse betwixt your oratrix and other persons and divers times when days of agreement for the traverse hath been appointed by such as be arbitrators indifferently chosen of and for the ordering of the traverse your oratrix hath been commanded at such days as was appointed by the arbitrators to bring in such evidences as concerned the messuage At which days your oratrix might bring in none evidences because they be in the custody of John Whyte by reason whereof your orator is likely to be disinherited of the messuage with the appurtenances unless your gracious favor be shewed in the premises — — — [*No remedy at common law by reason of ignorance of number — etc.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : Willm. Downe of London mercer
Robt. Langton of the same, gentleman.
In the Octave of the Purification of the B. V. Mary next.

Nunkeeling Priory.

108. E.C.P. 15. 36. [*English*]

[A.D. 1442–1449].

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth your poor bedeman John Cotom that whereas he took lately of Dame Joan Barneston[1] prioress of Nunkillyng in the County of York a toft and half an oxgang of land with the appurtenances in Killyng in the same Shire for the term of his life and his wife's by copy of their Court there and fined in the Court for the same; the prioress now late of great malice and evil will hath put out your suppliant from the toft and land, against good faith and conscience and to the great hurt of your suppliant, without your gracious remedy in this behalf; Whereupon please it your gracious lordship to consider these premises and how your suppliant hath no remedy at the common law and hereupon of your gracious lordship to grant a writ sub pena — — — [*etc.*]
— — —

Nun Monkton Priory.

109. E.C.P. 61. 190. [*English*]

[A.D. 1480–83].

To — — — the Archbishop of York, Chancellor of England.

Sheweth unto your good lordship your orator Rauff Gascoigne That where the same Rauff was possessed of a messuage with the appurtenances in Lokley in the shire of York in his demesne as of fee and so possessed of many and divers evidences concerning the same messuage delivered all his evidences concerning the same to Elizabeth[2] prioress of the house of the Nuns of Nonnmonkton safely to be kept to the behoof of your orator and to be redelivered at that time when he required them; It is so now gracious lord that your orator hath oftymes sith the deliverance of the same evidences required the prioress to deliver to him his evidences which to do she

[1] Prioress *c.* 1431; resigned 1453.
[2] Apparently unrecorded.

utterly refuseth contrary to all conscience; In which case your orator hath no remedy by the course of the common law for so-much as he knoweth not the certainty of the number of the evidences nor the specialty that is in them contained.....
[*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Hen. Huntman of London, gent.
Thos. Langston of London, yeoman.

Pontefract, St. John's Priory.

110. E.C.P. 134. 64. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93, and 1504–1515].

To the — — — Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Most humbly sheweth and piteously complaineth — — — John Flynt[1] now prior and [the] convent of the Priory of St. John Evangelist of Pountfrete in the County of York, That where of late one Richard Broun late prior of the Priory of Pountfrete by his deed enfeoffed one John Kendall late Secretary to Richard the Third, late in deed and not of right King of England, and other, in and of the manor of Whitwode and Mere with the appurtenances in the County of York, to have and to hold to them and either of them longest living for term of life to the use and behoof of Richard Broun, and for the more surety of the same Richard by his crafty means and labour persuaded and so subtly perused his convent that they by and under their convent seal were compelled and enforced to affirm and confirm the same, shewing and surmitting to the convent that it was to the intent with the issues and profits of the same manor for the time coming to redeem all such jewels belonging unto the house and priory as by Richard Broun, then being prior of the same, were laid in pledge to any person or persons, And also of and with the same truly to content and pay all and all manner of debts and other sums of money due by the house to every person or persons by his means as far as for the time the issues and profits in any wise might extend, and that the residues of the same, if any were, the said Richard Broun, if it fortuned him to resign his office of the Priory there, should have for his sustentation and finding. It is so, gracious lord, that Dampne Richard by the space of 7 years and more continually, as well since the resignation of his office as before has occupied and taken to his proper use and

[1] For the succession of these priors, see Introduction, p. viii.

behoof all issues, profits and revenues of the manor amounting to the yearly value of 40 marks and above, and neither hath redeemed any of the jewels nor contented nor paid any of the debts, by the which and many other prodigal means and dealings of Dampne Richard the poor Priory is greatly impoverished and likely to be undone, Unless your gracious lordship to them be shewed in this behalf. In consideration whereof and forasmuch as Dampne Richard has a bill of exemption wherethrough your orator John Flynt now prior of the same cannot use in him any jurisdiction spiritual nor temporal nor has no remedy — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : John Neweman of Balcombe in Sussex, husbandman
Thomas Holford of Westminster in Middlesex, Chandler.

111. E.C.P. 288. 20. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Sheweth — — — Robert Burneley That whereas your orator upon long suit and process in the spiritual Court at York upon the contumacy of one Thomas Cudworth obtained a writ called a Significavit upon a certificate in due form made and remaining of record in the King's Court of his Chancery against Thomas Cudworth and by virtue of the same writ by ordinary process Cudworth was taken and put in prison by the Sheriff of Yorkshire according to the laudable custom of this Realm That notwithstanding the Sheriff upon certain letters testimonial made by the prior of Pontefract pretensed a Judge delegate upon a *frivole appele* surmised to be made by Cudworth before any inhibition made to the Judge from whom the cause was surmised to be appealed without any intimation made by the ordinary Judge hath delivered Cudworth out of prison contrary to the laudable custom And so good and gracious lord by the surmised and forged writings made and sealed in this behalf by the prior as it shall be sufficiently proved before your Grace your poor orator is without remedy against Cudworth to his utter impoverishing for ever Unless your good and gracious lordship to him be shewed — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges for prosecution : William Swaine of London yeoman
Richard Walleys of the same yeoman.

Before the King in his Chancery on the morrow of Hilary next.

112. E.C.P. 346. 49. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Meekly beseecheth — — — Richard Hawe[1] prior of the monastery of St. John Apostle and Evangelist of Pomfreitt that whereas your beseecher is peaceably possessed and seised of a messuage and 40 acres of land lying in the towne and fields of Thyrske within the County of York and so it is good and gracious lord that certain evidences charters and muniments concerning the premises are come to the hands and possession of one John Wynter in the County aforesaid yeoman and howbe it gracious lord that your orator hath divers times required John to deliver to him the evidences charters and muniments according to right and good conscience which to do he at all times hitherto hath refused and yet refuseth — — — [*etc. No remedy at common law because no certainty of number etc.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Thos. Thurmond of London haberdasher
Edmund Rychardson of London mercer.

— — — In the Octave of the Purification of the B.V. Mary next.

113. E.C.P. 504. 15. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1518–1529].

To — — — Thomas Cardinal Legate de Latere, Archbishop and Chancellor.

— — — sheweth — — — Robert Flynt and James Flynt administrators of the goods of Leonard Flynt.....now past or thereupon Dan John Flynt[2] late prior of the house and priory of St. John the Evangelist in Pownfret and parson of the.....-ch of Durham bought of Robert Webster late of Ledestone in the County of York with the revenues and profits of his.....than [?then] the prior delivered and paid unto Robert Webster 13*s.* 4*d.* for the making of the same Barley.....the behoof of the same Leonard and gave it to him as by sufficient writing plainly dothe appear which 10*li*.....there.....-de Robert Webster died and made Robert Webster his son his executor and.....poor beseecher as sufficient witnesses have testified by writing under their seals ready.....same 40 quarters [of] malt [? in] his own hands and denieth to make payment or delivery thereof.....was good and

[1] Unrecorded. See Introduction, p. viii.
[2] See Introduction.

gracious lord that your grace directed the determination of the premises Robert Danby Esquire and Thos. Tasshe clerk which matter they substantially.....form above expressed and as by the certificate of the said Sir John Nevill John Constable..... -eals and sign manuals plainly it doth appear yet that notwithstanding good and gracious lord and by the maintenance and supportation of Dan Richard Hawe now prior of.....-ie considering that your poor orators be of no ability to sue for their further remedy.....writ to Robert Webster junior and injunction to deliver the 40 quarters of .....

Pledges : Willm. Newton of London, tailor
John Doo of the same, yeoman.

114. E.C.P. 504. 16. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

To — — — Thomas, Cardinal, Legate, Archbishop and Chancellor.

— — — sheweth — — — Robert Flynt of Pounfret in the County of York.....-ere and John Flynt late prior of the House or Priory of St. John Evangelist in Pounfryte aforesaid and the convent of the same place for certain sufficient and lawful causes them moving gave and granted to your beseecher a certain annuity of 26*s.* 8*d.* sterling by the year with certain s-.....-ng in Pounfryte with certain meat bread and ale to have and enjoy the same to your orator during his life natural as by sufficient.....-r the convent seal of the prior and convent thereof made ready to be shewed plainly it doth appear And also good and gracious lord so it is that.....and convent in their Chapter house heretofore granted to your beseecher the tithe of Hardewik during his life natural for the rent of 46*s.* 8*d.*.....tithe the prior and convent of their froward disposition and extort power will not suffer your beseecher any longer to have or enjoy the.....right and good conscience and also the prior and convent have withdrawn and taken from your beseecher two messes of meat yearly.....to your beseecher granted during his life in the Chapter house of the prior and convent And where also one Dan John Flynt late prior .....had in custody of Leonard Flint now deceased to whom your beseecher was administrator 5*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* which 5*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* .....the late prior came to the hands and possession of Dan Richard Hawe now prior of the same house which 5*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* your beseecher.....times hath required of Dan Richard Hawe but that to deliver or any part thereof he utterly refuseth and now your poor orator.....of no ability to sue for his further remedy in this behalf by course of the common law and unless your good grace moved.....in this behalf he is likely to be utterly undone in this world for ever In tender consideration whereof it may please your good.....before.....[*Plea for writ to answer the*

above, perform the annuity and pay the arrears, to allow possession of the Hardewik tithe and pay the 5*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*].

Pledges : John Norton, Tailor.
Rich. Doo, yeoman.

115. E.C.P. 781. 12. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533–1538].

To — — — Sir Thomas Audley, Kt., Lord Chancellor.

— — — sheweth — — — Thos. Draxe, clerk, parson of the parish church of Darfield in the county of York that whereas your orator and his predecessors parsons of the church of Darfield out of time of mind have been seised as in the right of the church of and in the moiety and half deal of the tithes of Wirsburgh as parcel of the tithes of the church of Darfield in his demesne as of fee and so seised as well the now parson as his predecessors time out of mind have peaceably without interruption taken the profits of the moiety as in tithe corn hay goose pig and other profits until now of late that one James[1] prior of the monastery of St. John the Evangelist in Pomfrett hath attained the possession of divers compositions agreements and writings concerning the moiety of the tithe, and the same prior by colour of having of the same compositions and writings hath made divers and sundry new conveyances of the premises and by colour of the same of his own wrong [hath taken and yet *inserted*] taketh the profits of the premises to his own use and will in nowise suffer your orator to take any profits of the same to the great hurt of your orator, And your orator hath often and many times required the prior as well to make to him delivery of the compositions agreements and writings concerning the premises as also of all the revenues and profits thereof so by him wrongfully received and to suffer your orator peaceably to enjoy the same, which to do he hath alway refused and yet doth — — — [*etc.* — — — *clauses of no certainty or remedy*.....*Plea for writ* sub pena].....

Pledges : John Doo of London hos-.....
John Coo of the same G.....

— — — on the morrow of the Purification of the Blessed Mary next.

Pontefract, Trinity College.

116. E.C.P. 31. 511. [*English*]

[A.D. 1464–1470, or perhaps 1479–1482].

[1] James Thwayts, last prior. No initial date is certainly known.

To — — — the Archbishop of York, Primate and Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth — — — James Clapham one of the priests of the College of the Trinity of Pountfrett and other his cobrethren Priests of the College, forasmuch as the College was founded by a famous knight Sir Robert Knolles and Dame Constance his wife, of 7 priests whereof one to be master, 2 clerks and 12 poor folks and the master to be chosen of one of the Priests and he so chosen to be sworn upon the Holy Evangelists to keep residence and bide continually at the same place and not to be absent a month in the year from the same place, except that it be the great necessity and profit of the place, upon the pain of privation, And also that he shall well and truly every year make his true accounts of his receipts and payments of the issues and profits of the livelihood of the said place unto the brethren upon the pain of privation aforesaid, with many other notable ordinances and establishments for the weal of the College All which has been well and truly done since the time of the foundation unto now of late that one Mr. John Lathom[1] now occupying the office of Master there, which by his sinister guiding and rule if he may be suffered will utterly destroy the College; for the said Master John never since he came there kept residence there passing the space of 6 weeks together nor did he make ever reckoning or accounts to his brethren of his receipts, but purchaseth himself livelihood and corrodies with their money, and when they challenge him for his misrule and guiding contrary to his oath he saith that the Pope hath dispensed with him for his oath; and now of late he intended to have brought in a foreign priest to have been master there, and so he had been but for the labour that your beseechers made unto the King's highness and to your good lordship. And after that labour so made, he said that he would no longer occupy the office of master but that he would resign the office to the behoof of the said Sir James, and so he promised all the brethren that he would do, and caused James[2] to take upon him the charge and guiding of the College to his great labour, charge and expenses, And now Master John nothing intending the weal and profit of the place nor considering the labour and charge of James nor the faithful promise that he made to the brethren and other worshipful persons, he utterly refuseth to resign to the behoof of James; and so the College by his misguiding and rule is like to be utterly destroyed without your gracious succour to them be showed in this behalf. Whereupon please it your good and gracious lordship, the premises tenderly considered, to grant a writ sub pena — — — [*etc.*].

Pledges { John Grove, gent.
William Calkewyll, yeoman.

[1] Unrecorded as Master.
[2] Unrecorded.

Richmond, St. Martin's Priory.

117. E.C.P. 771. 52-55. [*English*]

[A.D. 1537].

[*Note—In the file these documents are incorrectly arranged; here the order has been restored*].

771. 54.

[*No address*].

——— sheweth ——— Hen. Cogell That where your orator about 7 years past purchased and bought a certain land set lying and being in Richemonde in the County of Yorke holden of the King's highness in fee farm, unto the which land belongeth a fresh water upon the which water your orator builded two mills, the building whereof cost your orator the sum of 80*li.* sterling and above And shortly after that your orator had builded the two mills one John[1], prior of the house of St. Martin in Rychemonde, bearing inward malice and displeasure unto your orator and minding utterly to undo him for ever bare your orator over hand that the mid stream of the water belonged unto the abbot of Yorke, And that the abbot had commanded him to pull down the dam of the stream, where of right the stream time out of mind belonged and yet doth belong unto the King's highness and his predecessors King of England, yet that notwithstanding for by cause the mills of your orator could not grind if the course of the stream were turned from them, therefore your orator being a poor man and glad to obtain and get the good will and favour of the prior compounded with him for the having of the stream and paid unto him for his good will therein 4*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* sterling. And the prior at the receipt thereof faithfully promised and granted that your orator should peaceably have and enjoy the stream for ever. And so it is, right honourable lord, that the prior not regarding his promise right nor good conscience about 4 years past pulled up the dam of the stream, whereby the mills of your orator cannot grind, And so your orator hath ever since that time lost the profit that might have risen and grown of the mills if the prior had not pulled up the dam of the stream, which is to the utter undoing and impoverishing of your orator for ever, unless your lordship's favour to him be shewed on this behalf. And forasmuch as the prior in no wise will permit and suffer your orator to have and enjoy the same according to his promise, nor yet will repay unto your orator the sum of 4*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* by him received of your orator as is above-

[1] Probably the same as Baildon's John Mather *alias* Matthew.

said, your orator is compelled of necessity to sue unto your most honourable lordship by bill of petition for reformation of the premises. Might it therefore please your good lordship — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

E.C.P. 771. 52. [*English*]

[A.D. 1537].

To the King our Sovereign lord in his High Court of Chancery.

Pleaseth it your highness to be advertised that according to your most dread commandment to us directed and hereunto annexed we have called the within named John[1] prior of Saint Martin's in Richmond before us at York the 9th day of September in the 29th year of your most noble reign and then and there upon his book oath took his answer, and also John Wynco whom he then named to be his attorney concerning the premises, which answer and warrant of attorney we do send unto your Majesty hereunto annexed.

E.C.P. 771. 55. [*Latin*]

[A.D. 1537].

Warrant (copy) of King Henry VIII to Robert Bowes and Robert Chaloner Esq., to take the answer of John prior of St. Martin's to the plea of Henry Cogell, as John is unable to appear in person, to take his attorney and render certificates of their proceedings.

Dated 8 Nov. 29 Hen. VIII.

771. 53.

The Answer of John prior of the Cell of St. Martin's nigh Richemonde to the bill of complaint of Henry Cogell.

The Prior saith that the bill of complaint is untrue — — — [*etc.*] — — — And for answer to the surmised bill he saith that he is monk professed in the monastery of St. Mary's Abbey beside York under the obedience of William abbot of the monastery, And that he and all others being priors of the house of St. Martin's is and always hath been priors dative and removable at the will of the abbot, and that the now prior and all others being priors of the Cell have always been accountable and made their accounts from year to year of and for all the revenues and profits coming or growing yearly of the Cell to the abbot and his predecessors at

[1] John Mather.

any time or times at the will of the abbot and his predecessors And demandeth judgement if he by the order of this honourable Court shall be compelled to make any further answer, yet nevertheless the advantage thereof to him saved if he shall be compelled to make further answer for plain declaration of the truth he saith that the one half of the water unto the mid stream as it lieth and hath his course by the ground of the priory appertaineth and belongeth unto the priory as by the grants thereof made more plainly appeareth. And the plaintiff levied and builded a dam on the water appertaining to the priory And thereupon relation was made unto William now abbot, who commanded the defendant to pull down the dam so made levied and builded on the water pertaining to the priory, according to which commandment the prior upon no malice but in the right of the priory and by the commandment of the abbot in peaceable manner pulled down the mill dam which was fixed and builded on the water belonging to the monastery, as lawful was for him to do, without that that the water unto the mid stream of the side towards the priory belongeth to the King our sovereign lord as in the bill of complaint is untruly alleged, And without that that the plaintiff compounded with the defendant or gave him 4*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for the standing of the dam or ever made him any promise that the dam should stand, as in the bill is also untruly alleged, And without that that any other thing material specified in the bill and in this answer not confessed or denied is true, All which matters — — — [*etc. Plea for discharge with costs*].....

Richmond, Hospital of St. Nicholas.

118. E.C.P. 11. 220. [*English*]

[A.D. 1431–1442 or possibly 1467–1472].

To — — — the Bishop of Bath, Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth humbly William Ayscough,[1] clerk, Keeper of the Hospital of St. Nicholas beside Richmond, which is of the patronage of our sovereign the King, that whereas many great wastes destructions and dilapidations of and in the houses lands and cattle belonging to the Hospital now of late have been made by Master John Carlton,[2] late Keeper of the Hospital, now dead, and his servants and deputies, which wastes destructions and dilapidations are to the final destruction and loss of the Hospital if they be not reformed and amended by aid of your Lordship;

[1] and [2] Both apparently unrecorded elsewhere.

and the petitioner has often requested the executors of the will of Master John to reform and amend the wastes destructions and dilapidations or to make satisfaction for them, and they will not do so. — — — [*Plea for* briefs] — — — considering that you by reason of your office are Visitor of the Hospital — — —

Pledges for prosecution { Richard Chaterley
Christopher Norton

Rievaulx Abbey.

119. E.C.P. 166. 70. [*English*] [*slightly mutilated*].

[A.D. 1486–93, and 1505–1515].

Probably *c.* 1487.

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England and [*erased*].

Meekly beseecheth — — — Sir Thomas Symson and Sir John Wyntr[-ingham ?] priests, executors of the testament and last will of John Carre now deceased That whereas the same John in his life for great trust which he had in one William[1] the abbot of the Monastery of Ryvax in the County of York willed and desired the abbot to purchase the King's letters patent of licence for founding of a Chantry perpetual and also to ordain and stablish the same Chantry within the Parish church of St. Sampson in the City of York and to find priest or priests to serve the same Chantry and to pray for the soul of John Car and all Christian souls forever And for the performing thereof in time aforesaid John Carre upon the same trust delivered unto the abbot 300 marks sterling And after that the abbot surmised that he had purchased the said ....[*torn*]....and thereupon made writings under the common seal of the monastery to John Carre for the establishment of the Chantry, by colour whereof John Carre.....priests to the same Chantry.....of the same by the space of a whole year and a half and perceived for his [? labour] 9 marks 7*s.* 11*d.* of the abbot; And now it is so gracious lord that it may be evidently perceived that the abbot never yet obtained any licence of our sovereign lord the King for founding of the Chantry and therefore your beseechers have often times required the abbot to make..... and sure foundation of the Chantry or else to redeliver the sum of 300 marks except the sum of 9 marks 7*s.* 11*d.* unto your beseechers to the intent to dispose of it for the [? soul] of John Carre according

[1] Probably William Spenser, abbot, A.D. 1463 to 1487 at least.

to right, which to do the abbot at all times hath refused and yet refuseth — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : William Yonge of London.
John Jakes of London, yeoman.

120. E.C.P. 298. 13. [*English*]

[A.D. 1489–1508].

To — — — William Archbishop of York and Chancellor.

Piteously complaining sheweth to your good grace your orator Henry Clervesse that whereas your orator is in possession and seised in his demesne in a Tenement and 20 acres of land set and lying in the town of Long Coughton in the County of York and certain evidences muniments and escripts be come to the hands of one John Burtonne[1] abbot of Ryvevall in the said County by means that John Clervesse father unto your orator died sojourner within the Abbey of Ryvevall, of the which abbot your orator required his evidences, muniments and escripts, but them to deliver he hath and yet doth deny contrary — [— — *etc. Clauses for number of the evidences and their place of deposit* — — — *no remedy at the common law* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : Simon Harny
Thos. Bexley
.....for the Quindene of Michaelmas next.

121. E.C.P. 561. 70. [*English*]

[*c.* A.D. 1521]

To — — — Thomas, Cardinal, Legate, Archbishop and Chancellor.

Humbly complaineth — — — William[2] abbot of Ryvax in the County of York that where your orator at the special request and desire of John Garth at Ryevax the first day of May the 13 year of the Reign of King Henry VIII did bargain and sell to one Galfrid Symson 8 load of wood growing in Oxnop in Swadaill[3] in the County of York for 100*s.* of lawful English money to be paid to your orator at the feast of St. Michael then next following, for the payment of the money John Garth faithfully promised upon his faith and truth that he should pay the 100*s.* to your orator at the feast of St. Michael because Galfrid was not of power to pay

[1] Abbot, A.D. 1489 to *c.* 1513.
[2] William Helmsley, abbot A.D. 1513 to *c.* 1528.
[3] Swaledale.

the 100*s*. which 100*s*. as yet is not paid to your orator In consideration whereof it would please your Grace because your orator hath no remedy by the order of the common law to recover the 100*s*. of John because it is upon a bare promise to grant to your orator the King's writ of sub pena — — — [*etc.*] — — —

Pledges : John Skernoke of London, hosier.
Rich. Harman of London, skinner.

— — — in one month of Easter next.

122. E.C.P. 596. 14. [*English*]

To — — — Thomas, Cardinal, legate, Archbishop, Primate and Chancellor.

Lamentably sheweth and piteously complaineth — — — Robert Wyndar yeoman that whereas the abbot and convent of the monastery of our Blessed Lady of Rievall in the County of York for a sufficient sum of money to them by your poor orator before the hand well and truly paid gave and granted unto your beseecher a certain corrody out of their monastery during the life of your beseecher of certain meat and drink and other things as by an Indenture under the convent seal of the abbot and convent thereof made ready to be shewed plainly it doth appear which corrody your beseecher peaceably enjoyed according to the effect of the former Indenture by the space of half a year or thereupon without let or interruption of any person Whereupon now so it is good and gracious lord that the abbot of his extort power and froward disposition doth deny to perform the Indenture and every covenant and article therein contained to the great loss and undoing of your poor orator And now unless your good grace moved with pity have tender respect in this behalf your poor beseecher is likely to be utterly undone in this world for ever — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena, *to cause the abbot to appear and to perform the Indenture*].

— — — on the Morrow of All Souls.

Ripon, St. Mary Magdalene's Hospital.

123. E.C.P. 24. 10. [*English*]

[A.D. 1453–54].

To — — — the Earl of Salisbury, Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth — — — Sir Randolph Byrd[1], Master of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalene in Ripon in the County of

[1] Not recorded in Baildon.

Yorkshire, That where your orator and his predecessors before him have been peaceably and lawfully possessed of and in a lordship called the lordship of Mulwath and in every parcel thereof within the said County as in the right of the Hospital to the time now late one Thomas Ledis esquire by grant and undue means against right, law and conscience pretending himself to have title in 2 tofts, 8 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 2 acres of wood with pasture to certain beasts within the lordship, the which tofts, land, meadow, wood, and pasture, parcel of the said lordship, he has entered with force and arms and so continually with force keeps possession of the same against right, law, and conscience, and your orator, his tenants and servants daily threatens and menaces to beat or make to be beaten and to slay them or any of them that his possession in the tofts, lands, meadows, wood and pasture interrupteth or intermelleth by suit lawful or otherwise; so that your beseecher for fear of the said menaces may nor dare not abide in the same country to sue against Thomas Ledis for the premises, for the which injuries and wrongs, wrongful occupation and forceful keeping of the lands, meadow, wood, and pasture against law, right and conscience your orator loseth the issues and profits of the said lands [*etc.*] and of the great part of the remnant of the lordship, which is to the final destruction and hindrance of your beseecher and the Hospital and greatly diminishing of divine service in the Hospital, without your gracious aid and succour rather had and shewed to your orator in that part; Please to your gracious lordship that the same Thomas might find sufficient surety of the King's peace to your orator and to all the King's liege people, for because of the premises, and moreover to compel the said Thomas to shew before your gracious lordship and before certain Judges, such as it please your lordship to call unto you, what title he hath in the lands [*etc.*] and in case it be thought by your lordship and by the Judges that Thomas have not a true nor sufficient title in the lands [*etc.*], that then your beseecher might be restored unto the possession of the lands [*etc.*] without any interruption of Thomas, his heirs or assigns. For the love of God and in the way of charity.

124. E.C.P. 187. 92. [*English*]

[A.D. 1493–1500].

To — — — the Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth meekly your poor Chaplain Randolf Byres, Master of the Hospital[1] of blessed Mary Magdalen in Rypon that

[1] There is an interesting description of this Hospital and its resources in C.I.M. 275 (18 Apr. 9 Edw. II), when Nicholas de Molyns was Warden. If this Plea is correctly included in this Bundle, Byres (or Byrd) was Master for over fifty years.

where Thomas Gyvendale,[1] late Master of the said Hospital, predecessor of your suppliant was seised in the right of the Hospital of two tofts, 8 acres of land, 3 acres of mead and 2 acres of wood and pasture for 7 beasts with the appurtenances and of other lands and tenements in Mulwath beside Rypon as of a lawful estate perpetual to him and to his successors, Masters of the Hospital there, Thomas Ledes dischancering the title and right of your beseecher in the said lands and tenements proposeth and intendeth to void and .....-ill the title which your beseecher hath in the same, affirming and surmitting himself by divers pretended feigned charters and colours to have title and interest in the lands and tenements, Whereby your beseecher is greatly vexed, troubled and put to great loss and also his tenants upon the tenements dwelling departed from their tenures and the poor Hospital so greatly thereby hindered that the doing of divine service there is likely to be greatly decayed without your gracious help shewed to them in this behalf.

[*Plea for writ* sub pena *to cause Thomas Ledes to show his title to the lands etc.*].

Roche Abbey.

125. E.C.P. 119. 26. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93, and 1504–1515; *probably the latter*].

To the Archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth your good and gracious lordship Richard Blyth that where certain evidences, charters and muniments concerning a messuage, a garden and 100 acres [of] land, meadow and pasture with the appurtenances in Dynyngton in the County of York whereof your beseecher and others to his use be lawfully seised in fee, and whereof your beseecher knoweth not the number nor contents nor whether they be closed in bag box or chest, be come to the hands and possession of John,[2] abbot of the Monastery of Our Lady of Roche in the said County and "Dampne" Thomas Symys, fellow-monk ['comoyen'] of the same abbot, and of one Isabel Sawnders, widow, and howbeit your beseecher hath oft times required the abbot, Dampne Thomas and Isabel to deliver to him the said evidences, charters and muniments they that to do at all times have refused and yet refuse — — — [*Plea for writs* sub pena].

Pledges : William Lambe of London, gent., and
Richard Hanley of the same, gent.

[1] Not recorded in Baildon.
[2] John Heslington seems the most likely abbot.

126. E.C.P. 181. 33. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93, and 1505–1515].

To — — — my lord Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth — — — Thomas Wortley that whereas your orator is seised of and in a messuage and certain lands and tenements with [the] appurtenances in Hardewyke within the County of Yorkshire in his demesne as of fee And so it is that divers evidences concerning the premises be come to the hands of one John[1] abbot of Roche and your orator hath often and many times required of the abbot deliverance of the same, which that to do he at all times hath refused and yet doth contrary to right and good conscience And inasmuch as your orator knoweth not the number of them nor wherein they be contained — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Henry Gren of London, yeoman,
John Belle of London, yeoman.

Endorsed :

Before the lord King in his Chancery in the quindene of St. Hilary next coming.

127. E.C.P. 272. 28. [*English*] [*In poor condition, much rubbed*].

[A.D. 1502–1503].

To — — — William Bishop of London keeper of the King's great seal.

Meekly beseecheth — — — William Tottehill that where as one John Staveley and Jane his wife gave unto one John Tottehill and Elizabeth his wife a croft 63 acres of land 13 acres of..... acres of wood with the appurtenances in Staynton beside Tykhill in the County of York to have to the said John Tottehill and Elizabeth and to the heirs of their two bodies.....soon after which John Tottehill and Elizabeth died After whose decease the premises and the right and use thereof descended to your orator as cousin and heir of John and Elizabeth and of their two bodies coming, that is to say son of John son of John son of Thomas brother of John son of Hugh son of John and Elizabeth and one Thomas.....as seised of divers other lands and tenements with the appurtenances in Slathehotton Brokehouse Thorcrofte Keyre Brampton [?] Yornyng Hutton under Hagh Metysburgh Melton of the Hagh [?] Doncastre and Loversale in the said County in his demesne as of fee tail and died After whose death the same other lands and tenements descended in right and.....[? tail] to your

[1] John Heslington.

orator as cousin and heir to the same Thomas Shirley that is to say son of John son of John son of Thomas brother of John father of Jane mother of Thomas Shirley And divers evidences charters and muniments concerning the premises be come to the possession of one John[1] abbot of Roche in the said County And howbeit your orator hath divers times required the abbot to make delivery to him of the evidences charters and muniments he that to do at all times refuseth and yet doth Wherefore your orator for lack of knowledge of the certainty — — — [*etc.*] — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges for prosecution : Roger Keys of London, yeoman.
William Wy of London, Tailor.

Before the King in his Chancery in 15 days of Michaelmas next.

Rotherham College.

128. E.C.P. 351. 8. [*English*] [*Mutilated*].

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth — — — Robert Cutler[2] Provost of the College of Rotherham in the County of York and his brethren of the same College that where one Henry Carnebull clerk was seised of and in certain lands and tenements called Cressis amongst other lands and tenements set and lying in the town of Wath within the said County in his demesne as of fee to the yearly value of 10 marks sterling and so being seised thereof enfeoffed George Earl of Shrewsbury Lord Steward Sir Thomas Wortley and Master Thomas fitzWilliam Esquire in fee to the use of the said Sir Henry Carnebull and his heirs and for the performance of the testament and last will of the same Sir Henry and after Sir Henry made his testament and last will and in the same named John Sympson clerk and John Lyly clerk his executors and over that by his last will gave and bequeathed all his l..... tenements within the County of York unto Master Cutler Provost and his b[rethren] and their successors except certain lands called Basynthorp which the said.....master Francis Talbot son and heir unto the Lord St-.....having sufficient licence to purchase the la-.....of famous memory King Edward the 4th.....evidences charters and muniments came.....certainty whereof to your orator be ..... [*etc.* — — — *no remedy at the common law* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

— — — in the Octave of Trinity next.

[1] John Heslington.
[2] Not recorded in Baildon.

Sallay Abbey

129. E.C.P. 6. 230. [*French*]

[A.D. 1388–1391, *or* 1399–1426, *or* 1456–59].

To — — — the Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor of England.

Supplicates humbly John Rede, Master of the Hospital at Sandon, that whereas William de Percy son and heir of Henry de Percy by his charity gave granted and confirmed to the Church of the Holy Spirit at Sandon and the Master and brethren there serving God in pure and perpetual alms and for the support of the Chaplains certain lands and tenements and twenty marks of rent which the abbey and convent of Salley used to pay yearly for their manor and forests of Giseburn, that is to say, paying the twenty marks yearly at Sandon in the Octave of St. John Baptist, as in the charter more fully appears; the which twenty marks in time previous to the Master and brethren have been paid and seised according to the effect and purport of the gift and grant aforesaid until thirty years now last past; and now so it is that it is agreed that the petitioner has often requested the abbot of Salley to make payment of the twenty marks yearly due to him by the lease; the abbot having no consideration thereof is unwilling to pay the twenty marks but wrongfully detains them contrary to the law and the form of the grant. Please it your very wise discretion to consider the matter aforesaid — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John de Boys.
John Farnham.
William Strete.

130. E.C.P. 201. 54. [*English*]

[A.D. 1493–1500].

To — — — my lord Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth — — — Lionel Foule son and heir of Robert Foule late of Gryndulton in the County of York that where the said Robert was seised in his demesne as of fee in a messuage with 40 acres [of] land set and lying in the said town which he held of the King as of his Duchy of Lancaster by the rent of 4*s*.

by year for all manner [of] suits and services without any other rent or thing asked of Robert for the land during his life time and of such estate died seised, after whose decease the right and title of the messuage and land descended to your beseecher, whereof he is lawfully possessed; howbeit all the deeds and evidences concerning the messuage and land be come to the hands of one Richard[1] abbot of Salley and of Robert Halton fellow-monk ['Comoyn'] to the abbot, which abbot now claimeth like rent as your beseecher by right to the King as is aforesaid and hath of late distrained for the same rent, And so it is, gracious lord, that your beseecher for lack of his evidences cannot obtain against his distress nor knoweth not the number nor content of his evidences Wherefore he can have no remedy in the premises by the common law — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Radclyff of London, gentleman.
Thomas Lambard of the same, yeoman.

Endorsed : Before the lord King in his Chancery in the Octave of St. Hilary next coming.

131. E.C.P. 360. 10. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth — — — Henry[2] abbot of the monastery of Salley in the County of York that where as one James Witton dwelling in the forest of Gisburn in the said County yeoman hath and occupieth certain lands and tenements in the forest belonging to the monastery against the will of your beseecher and will not pay any farm therefore but threateth and menaced your beseecher and his servants saying that if they would come there to take any distresses for any duty there he would shoot arrows at them and rescue them So that your beseecher dare neither come thither nor send his servants there to take any distresses there, which James is called a lawless man not dreading God nor the king's laws against whom your beseecher hath no remedy by the king's laws because he dwelleth in so wild a country not fearing any process of the law — — — [*Etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : William Hunt of London, smith.
Thos. Aysh of London, yeoman.

— — — in the Octave of Martinmas next.

132. E.C.P. 363. 32. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515, *actually*, 1504–1506].

[1] Surname apparently unknown.
[2] Henry Hamond, abbot, A.D. 1506 to 1527.

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Sheweth — — — Thomas[1] abbot of the monastery of Our Lady of Salley in the County of York That where one Henry Pudsey of Bolton in the same County Esquire and Henry Pudsey his son of great malice and ill will that they bear to the monastery not only contented to destroy and waste the possessions of the house but also intendeth and doth intend daily to menace hurt and beat the abbot monks farmers tenants and servants of the house So that the abbot fearing the same upon humble suit to the King's grace and to your good lordship lately obtained a supplicavit against Henry and Henry directed to Sir William Gascoigne kt. one of the Justices of the Peace of the Westredyng of Yorkeshyre to take surety of Henry and Henry either of them in the sum of 500 marks with 4 other sufficient sureties with them every one in the sum of £40 to observe and keep the King's peace against the abbot convent farmers tenants and servants according to which writ and commandment Sir William Gascoigne in the execution of the same arrested at the last Assise at York Henry Pudsey the elder And for because he would not find surety according to the tenor of the writ Henry was committed to the Castle of York the King's next gaol according to the commandment of the writ So it is now gracious lord that Henry is departed out of the Castle of York without any surety there found for the peace to Sir William Gascoign or to the Sheriff or to any other Justice of the Peace and is now at large and here present notwithstanding the arrest And yet continueth his great malice toward the abbot and convent Wherefore it would please your gracious lordship — — — [*Plea for writs against Henry and Henry to find sureties for the peace*]. — — —

Pledges : John Boteler of London merchant.
Thos. Gossewell of London grocer.

— — — on Thursday next.

133. *See* Helaugh Priory, E.C.P. 679. 26, 27, 28.

Selby Abbey.

134. E.C.P. 46. 100. [*English*]

[A.D. 1467–72, and perhaps 1433–43].

To — — — the Bishop of Bath and Wells and Chancellor of England.

[1] Thomas Burton, 1503-1506.

Meekly beseecheth your continual orator Thurstan Elineshall of Worleby in the County of Lincoln, gentleman, that whereas your beseecher bought of one Robert Gracebrigge of Byrn in the County of York yeoman at Byrn aforesaid 8 oxen for the sum of 6*li.* and odd money for the contentation of which sum your said beseecher was bound in an obligation of 8*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* payable at Easter last past, the which 8 oxen the said Robert should at his own cost send unto Lincoln by Easter aforesaid and then and there to deliver the oxen unto your beseecher, And the said Robert to receive the 8*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; And the which 8 oxen on the way to Lincoln-wards, as Robert saith, were taken away from a servant of his; It is so, gracious lord, that your beseecher saith that he was at Selby in Yorkshire and there bought as much timber as cost your beseecher 7*li.*, the said Robert understanding that your beseecher had been there and had bought the timber of evil will and malice hath attained an action against your beseecher upon the timber in the abbot's Court of Selby because of the obligation; And so your beseecher cannot have no delivery of his timber without he pay unto Robert the 6*li.*, and your beseecher to have nothing therefor against all right and good conscience — — —

[*Plea for a* certiorari *directed to the Steward and Bailiff of the Abbot to make them certify up the cause before the Chancellor*].

135. E.C.P. 606. 71. [*English*] [*Mutilated*].

[*c.* A.D. 1531].

To — — — Sir Thomas Moore Kt., Lord Chancellor of England.

In most humble and lamentable wise complaining sheweth — — — Gylbert Byrkhede of Wakefeld in the County of Yorke Clothier That whereas one John Maunsell bailiff of the Liberty of the abbot of Selby in the said County the 8 day of March in the 21st year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIIIth Bargained and sold unto your poor orator 30 quarters of rye at 8*s.* the quarter which amounteth to the sum of 12*li.* sterling Whereof John Maunsell by your orator was then fully contented and paid and that the 30 quarters of rye should be brought to your orator's house by the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist then next immediately following Of the which 30 quarters of rye your orator received 20 quarters of rye and now gracious Lord John Maunsell will in no wise deliver or bring the 10 quarters of rye being behind undelivered And whereas your orator hath divers times required John Maunsell to deliver the 10 quarters of rye parcel of the bargain, which delivery John Maunsell hath utterly denied, the bargain notwithstanding and yet doth deny the same contrary to all right and good conscience to the express wrong of

your poor orator And whereas your orator had bargained with other his customers to deliver the 10 quarters of rye by reason of the withholding of the 10 quarters of rye the customers were disappointed to your orator's great loss and utter undoing for evermore only your lordship moved with pity be mercifully shewed to him in this behalf In tender consideration — — — [*The rest is torn away*].
— — — in the Octave of Martinmas next.

136. E.C.P. 697. 30. [*English*]

[A.D. 1531–1532].

To — — — Sir Thomas Awdley, Kt., Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

In humble wise complaineth and sheweth — — — Thomas Banys clerk that whereas the same your orator is and hath been peaceably seised and possessed for term of his life by the space of 20 years last past and above of a free donative Chapel called the Chapel of Hamylton lying and being within the County of York with certain lands tenements liberties and commodities of old time belonging and pertaining to the same Chapel of the free gift of the Dean and Chapter of York rightful patrons of the same Chap-....[*torn*].... good lord so it is that divers evidences charters and muniments concerning the foundation and first gift of the Chap[el] and other the premises by the untrue crafty and subtle demeanor of one William Andrew monk to the abbot of Selby are come to the hands rule possession and custody of Robert[1] abbot of Selby aforesaid and to the hands and possession of the said monk, what evidences they be or the certainty or number thereof your orator knoweth not nor whether that the same evidences charters and muniments be in any bag box or chest sealed or unsealed your orator also knoweth not by reason whereof the same your orator is without remedy for the recovery of the evidences charters and muniments by the course of the common law — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena].....

per me Johannem Palmer

Pledges : John Frere of London, Tailor
Rich. Fox of the same, yeoman.

— — — on the Morrow of Martinmas.

137. E.C.P. 898. 13–15. [*English*].

[A.D. 1535].

898. 13. [*Faded, worn, and mutilated*].

[1] Robert Selby, *alias* Rogers, last abbot, 1526-1539.

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth — — — [the abbot and convent of the monastery of S. Germayn of] Selby in the County of Yorke That where your orators are seised of and in 60 acres of land arable and pasture in Fockerby in the County of York aforesaid [in right] of the monastery, and the same have been by a long time let by the abbot and his predecessors abbots of the same place unto one Robt. Egmonton..... for the use usually to be contented and paid after the custom of the country there, by reason whereof Robert and his ancestors.....by a long time [were] possessed of the land at the will of the abbot and his predecessors as is aforesaid and by reason that Robert.....lands of the abbot be lying .....-ndly with the lands of the ..... and also that by reason of the long occupation of both the lands the boundary of the lands of the abbot be not of knowledge, so that he knoweth no certain place where he should distrain for his rent. Wherefore most d[read] lord the said Robert not [only keepeth] from your orators the occupation of their proper lands but also utterly .....-th to the — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

898. 14. [*Latin*]

Copy of Commission from the King to Thos. Estofte, Esq. and John Rudd, gent., to take the evidence of Robert Egmonton in answer to the bill of the abbot and convent of Selby.

Dated — Feb. 26 Hen. VIII.

898. 15.

The Answer of Robt. Egmonton to the bill of complaint of the abbot and convent of the monastery of St. Germayn of Selby.

The defendant saith that the bill of complaint is untrue — — — [*etc.*] — — — Nevertheless — — — for further answer and declaration of the truth in the same the defendant saith that truth it is that the complainants be seised and that their predecessors have been seised as in the right of their monastery of and in certain lands tenements meadows and pastures in Fockerby aforesaid commonly called and known for an oxgang of land, certainty or number of acres whereof nor the ..... and bounds of the same or in which places certain of the same lands meadows and pastures lieth the defendant saith that he knoweth not And furthermore the defendant saith that he and other of his ancestors of long time have been possessed of and in the same lands meadows and pastures commonly called an oxgang of land at will paying therefor yearly to the abbot and his predecessors being abbots of the monastery 26*s.* 8*d.* at the times usual, as in the bill of com-

plaint is alleged But that that the defendant unlawfully detaineth from your complainants the occupation of their proper lands and tenements as in the bill of complaint is alleged Or that the defendant utterly denieth to pay to your complainants the yearly rent of 26*s.* 8*d.* for the same Or that the defendant detaineth from your orators any evidences concerning the same Or at any time to his knowledge had any evidences concerning the same or any part thereof And without that that any other thing specified in the bill of complaint — —— [*etc.*] — — — is true, All which matters — — — [*etc.*] — — — [*Plea for discharge with costs*].

Sinningthwaite Priory.

138. E.C.P. 356. 27. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth and piteously complaineth — — — Elsabeth Swer[1] prioress of the house of our blessed Lady [*of*] Synnyngwath in the County of York that where your oratrix at the special request and desire of one John Exilbe of the said County gentleman did content and pay to Master James Scheffyld of York then being Schoolmaster of the High School there 40*s.* for the board and learning of a son of John Exilbe and after John made one Anes his wife his executrix and died after whose death Anes took to husband one John Baylton at Kamybroth in the same County Gentleman And your oratrix oft and many times hath required the same John and Anes to content and pay the sum of 40*s.* and they yet have denied and yet doth Wherefore your oratrix are clearly without remedy by the course of the common law because she hath no writing nor specialty thereof whereby they ought to be charged — — — [*Plea for writ*s sub pena] — — — Pledges : John Thomplynson of London, yeoman.
Willm. Wyllym of London, yeoman.
— — — in the quindene of Michaelmas next.

139. E.C.P. 833. 46. [*English*]

[A.D. 1533].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley — — —

[1] Elizabeth Squire, prioress A.D. 1489 to 1529.

— — — sheweth — — — Henry Johnson of Wombewell within the County of Yorke and Alice his wife, daughter and heir of John Rodes late of Wombewell deceased, that whereas John Rodes was seised of and in one messuage and a croft with the appurtenances in Wombewell in his demesne as of fee and so seised thereof died by protestation seised, after whose death the messuage and croft with the appurtenances descended and came unto Alice as daughter and heir of John, by force whereof your orators entered into the messuage and croft and were thereof seised and yet be seised in their demesne as of fee as in the right of Alice. So it is gracious lord that divers muniments and writings concerning the premises be come to the hands and possession of one Dame Anne[1] prioress of Synnyngthwayt within the County of the City of York And albeit that your orators have often times required delivery of the evidences charters and muniments the prioress at all times hath refused and yet doth — — — [*etc. Clauses of no certainty and no remedy. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : John Rixe of London Draper
Ric. Davy of the same Plommer.

By John Bosse.

— — — in the Octave of St. John Baptist next.

Swine Priory.

140. E.C.P. 227. 68. [*English*]

[A.D. 1498–1500].

To the — — — Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Sheweth humbly — — — Edmund Thwats and Joan his wife Hezekiah ['Ezachie'] Clyfton and Elizabeth his wife, the said Joan and Elizabeth being daughters and heirs of one Peter Twyer deceased, that where their father was possessed and seised of and in the manor of Gaunsted and Twyergarth and also of and in certain other lands and tenements with the appurtenances within the County of York in his demesne as of fee of that estate died seised, after whose death the manors lands and tenements descended unto Joan and Elizabeth as daughters and heirs of Peter by force whereof Edmund in the right of Jane and Elizabeth as in the right of the said Elizabeth thereunto entered and was and is thereof lawfully seised in their demesne as of fee as in the right of Joan and Elizabeth, So it is now, good and gracious lord,

[1] Anne Goldesburgh, prioress A.D. 1529 to 1534.

that divers evidences charters scripts and muniments and writings touching and concerning the manors lands and tenements are come to the hands and possession of one Beatrix[1] now prioress of the Monastery of Swyne and of one John Twyer the elder And howbeit that your orators hath oft and many times required the prioress and John to deliver unto them the evidences scripts and muniments yet that to do they have at all times refused and yet refuseth contrary to all right — — — [*etc. Clauses of no certainty of number of deeds and how stored.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : William Hunt of London, yeoman.
Richard Grene of London, yeoman.

Endorsed : [*Latin*]

Memorandum that in Michaelmas Term.....15 there issued a brief of *dedimus potestatem* to the beloved and faithful Lord John Vavasour to take the answer of the abovewritten prioress in the quindene of Hilary next coming.
Before the Lord King in his Chancery in the quindene of Michaelmas next coming.

141. E.C.P. 896. 12. [*English*]

[*c.* A.D. 1533–38].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth John Seyntquintyn of Gaunt Stede in Holdernes within the County of York, Esquire, that whereas one John Seyntquintyn father unto your orator was peaceably seised and possessed of and in the manor of Gaunt Stede in Holdernes with the appurtenances in the County of York, and also of and in a messuage and one oxgang of land with the appurtenances in Swyne in Holdernez aforesaid in his demesne as of fee and so thereof being seised died, After whose death the premises descended as of right they ought to descend unto your orator as son and heir of John Seyntquintyn his father, By force whereof your orator was and yet is thereof seised and possessed in his demesne as of fee So it is gracious lord that divers evidences charters writings and muniments concerning the premises be lately come into the hands possession and keeping of one Eleanor[2] prioress of Swyne in Holdernes in [*etc.*] By reason whereof your orator is not only disturbed and letted to take and receive the profits of the premises, But also in time to come for lack of having of the evidences [*etc.*] he is like to be disherited of the manor of Gaunt Stede and other

[1] Beatrix Lowe, prioress A.D. 1498 to 1506.
[2] Eleanor Dene, prioress A.D. 1520 to ?

the premises for ever And although your orator hath divers and many times required and desired Eleanor — — — [*etc. Clauses of no certainty and no remedy. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Warter Priory.

142. E.C.P. 60. 132. [*English*]

[A.D. 1475–1483].

To — — — my Lord Chancellor and Archbishop of York

Meekly beseecheth — — — William Grene of London, gentleman, that whereas the prior of Wartre in the County of York, late Collector of half a disme granted to the King our sovereign Lord in the 18th year of his reign by the Clergy in the East Riding in the same County, desired and heartily prayed William Grene by his letter and writing that where the sum of 45*li.* part of the same disme is assigned to be taille of a duty owing to the Lady Darell late the wife of Sir George Darell, Kt., that William Grene would be bounden to the Lady Darell for the 45*li.* rather than there should come out of the Exchequer any process against the prior and his Convent, and William Grene should surely have surety under the convent seal to be truly content again at such days as William is bound by his obligation And where now late in the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist William hath paid to the Lady Darell 20*li.* and now must pay to the lady in the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel next coming 25*li.*, and howbeit your suppliant divers times hath required and desired of the prior to have sufficient surety under his convent seal according to his promise aforesaid, yet that to do he hath refused and yet doth — — — [*Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : John Hunt of London, yeoman.
Thomas Huet if the same, yeoman.

143. E.C.P. 342. 65. [*English*]

[A.D. 1512].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Sheweth — — — John Normanvile Kt. that where as your orator is seised [*in*] his demesne as of Fee of the manor of Newton and Gartham in the County of York and of certain lands and

tenements with the appurtenances in the towns of Newton and Gartham, And certain evidences muniments and writings concerning the manors lands and tenements are come to the hands and possession of Thomas[1] the prior of Waryter in the said County and your orator hath often time required the prior of the delivery of the evidences which to do he hath refused and denied and yet denieth to the great disturbance of the possession of your orator and his disheritance And whether they be in bag — — — [*etc.* — — — *No remedy at the common law* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Willm North of London yeoman
Robert ..... of London, Grocer.

Endorsed [*Latin*] :—

In Easter Term, viz., 22nd April 4 Henry VIII, a brief of ..... was directed to the prior for the quindene of Trinity next coming, by Court, directed to Thomas Fisher Sheriff of Yorkshire.

Memorandum that In Michaelmas Term 25th Oct. 4 Hen. VIII a brief was directed ..... to the same Prior.

E.C.P. 342. 66. [*English*]

The answer of Thomas prior of Warter unto the bill of complaint of John Normanvyle, Kt.

The prior Thomas saith that the bill of complaint is untrue and insufficient to be answered unto And that the matter therein contained is only feigned for vexation and trouble contrary to all right and good conscience For he saith that neither he nor no other person nor persons to his use hath have or had any evidences, writings, or muniments in his or their keeping concerning the manors of Newton and Gartham or any lands or tenements within the said Towns at any time since the delivery of the writ of sub pena ['or at any time afore' *inserted*] in manner and form as in his bill of complaint is surmised All which matter he is ready to aver as this Court shall award And he prayeth to be dismissed of this Court with his reasonable costs and expense for his wrongful vexation and trouble sustained in this behalf.

144. E.C.P. 514. 3. [*English*] [*Rubbed and stained*]

To — — — Thomas, Legate, Cardinal, Archbishop and Chancellor.

In most humble wise sheweth and complaineth — — — Joan Grave widow of the age of 90 years late wife of Peter Grave dead that where as Peter in his life by sufficient writing and

[1] Thomas Newsome, prior A.D. 1500 to 1523/4.

warrant under convent seal of the monastery of Warter in the County of York took to farm of the prior and convent of the said place their messuage called Westhalgarth in Preston in the said County ..... with all and singular their appurtenances thereunto belonging to have and to hold to Peter Grave and Joan his wife your oratrix for term of 40 years by reason whereof Peter and Joan all the life time of Peter peaceably did occupy and enjoy the farm and after Peter died your oratrix and her assigns ['assygney'] did occupy the same by virtue of the writings and warrant without trouble let vexation ..... that the writings and warrant under convent seal of the monastery whereby Peter in his life and after his death your oratrix ..... did occupy the messuage and land ..... came to the hands and possession of Richard Ramison John Hornclyff and Robert Ograme So that your oratrix .....put out from her farm and now Robert Ograme hath wrongfully entered and occupied the same contrary to all right and good conscience. And your oratrix many times hath required James John and Robert to have delivery of the writings and warrant sealed with the convent seal and Robert to suffer her and her assigns to occupy her farm and the writings and warrant to deliver to your oratrix James John and Robert at all times hereunto have refused and so refuseth and Robert still letteth ..... enter and enjoy the farm contrary to all right and good conscience. And — — — [*etc.* — — — *no remedy at the common law because no certainty of the number etc. of the deeds* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena —] — —

per me Hen. Smyth.

Pledges : Thos. Johnson of London, Sadler.
John Do of the same, yeoman.

— — — on the Morrow of the Purification of the Blessed Mary.

E.C.P. 514. 4. [*English*]

Whereunder Lynton 1 f.

The answer of Robert Ograme to the bill of complaint of Joan Grave.

The said Robert Ograme saith that the bill is uncertain and insufficient in the law to be answered unto And to the which bill he hath no need nor by law nor conscience is compellable to make any answer and for the insufficience whereof the said Ograme demandeth judgement if that he by this honourable Court shall be compelled to make further answer to the bill and prayeth to be dismissed out of the same Court with his reasonable costs and expenses that he hath sustained in this behalf.

145. E.C.P. 703. 17. [*English*]

[After A.D. 1526].

To — — — Sir Thomas Audely, Kt., Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

In his most humble and lowly manner sheweth and complaineth — — — John Horneclif of Great Grymsby in the County of Lincoln that where one Thomas Newson[1] late prior of the monastery of St. James of Warter in the County of Yorke predecessor to one William Holme now prior of the monastery made and by his sufficient writing under his own seal constituted your orator bailiff and receiver of all his manors lands and tenements in the town and fields of Preston in Holderness in the County of York and further gave him full power and authority to make leases of all the lands tenements and other the premises and also for the exercising of the office granted your orator 13*s.* 4*d.* To have and use occupy and perceive the office aforesaid with the 13*s.* 4*d.* and with the fees and profits to the same office .....-n for term of his life And further did give and deliver your orator divers escripts of rentals and other muniments for the knowledge of the ..... [fees] ..... and other profits of the manor lands and tenements with other the premises After which the prior predecessor to the prior that now is ..... [died] ..... and William Holme[2] was elected and made prior of the monastery And your orator hath made divers leases to divers persons according to the authority to him given by the predecessor of William prior which office grant and authority as well of the office and bailiffship receiver and fee and all authority aforesaid given to your orator was by William now prior affirmed And now of late the prior hath expulsed certain farmers for their farms and chargeth your orator of the rents, which your orator cannot get by reason of their expulsion And that notwithstanding hath gotten also to his possession as well such writings books of reckoning and bills of payment which belongeth to your orator as well for his discharge of receipts of rents in time of the predecessors of William prior as in the time of William now prior and that as well such books and bills as that your orator hath given and made for his remembrances and discharge as also such other books and writings as was delivered to your orator by the predecessor, and yet doth charge and unquiet your orator for the duties and payments to him truly paid And where also the said William prior doth withhold certain evidences charters and writings concerning 19 acres of land whereof your orator is lawfully seised of and in his demesne as of fee in Hedon in the County of York And for that your orator knoweth not the

[1] Prior A.D. 1500 to 1523/4.
[2] William Holme, prior 1516 to the Dissolution.

certainty of the writings bills and other reckonings concerning his office nor of the other writings concerning his lands — — — [*nor how they are deposited*] — — — nor cannot discharge him of his accounts without them — — — [*no remedy at the common law* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Myssenden.

146. E.C.P. 933. 17. [*English*] [*Much mutilated*]

[A.D. 1533–38].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth — — — your ..... of Great Grymesby in the County of Lyncoln yeoman That whereas one Thomas[1] ..... monastery of St. James of Warter in the County of York and the convent of the same ..... and reasonable consideration them moving by their deed indented bearing date the ..... year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIIIth under their convent seal made ..... orator of and in one messuage 3 closes 5 oxgangs and 2 acres of land with the appurtenances in the town and fields of Preston in Holdernesse in the County of York aforesaid To ..... your orator from the Feast of Pentecost then next ensuing the 2nd day of May unto ..... 20 years then next following and fully to be completed and ended, yielding during the term unto the prior and convent and their successors 5*li.* 13[?]*s.* ..... lawful money of England at two times in the year as by the Indenture .....-in contained and expressed more plainly it doth appear, All which ..... grants and agreements of the part of your orator to be performed as ..... your orator have well and truly performed And after that ..... William Holmes was then made prior of the monastery who ..... and enjoy the premises and every parcel thereof according ..... the profits of the same by the space of 8 years were ..... of law that the prior by the procurement comfort and ..... without any manner of cause or lawful ground ..... taking of the issues of the premises ..... good conscience .....

Whitby Abbey.

147. E.C.P. 279. 11. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1505].

[1] Thomas Newsome.

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Humbly beseecheth — — — Ralph Brumpton that where your orator took to farm of one William Colson[1] late abbot of Whitby the parsonage of Semer within the County of York for the term of 9 years by deed indented betwixt the late abbot and your orator by which deed amongst divers other covenants and articles it was covenanted and agreed that your orator should in no wise let to farm the parsonage nor no parcel thereof to any other person or persons during the said term without especial licence of the late abbot or his successors upon pain of forfeiture of 100 marks Nevertheless at the especial instance and desire of the late abbot your orator suffered one John Wright to occupy the tithe hay of a certain close amounting to the value of 5*s*. by year. Which John Wright had occupied the tithe hay many years before the lease made to your orator and occupied the same continually during the life of the late abbot. So it is good and gracious lord that William[2] now abbot of the place intending wrongfully to put your orator to importunable costs and charge hath heretofore commenced two several actions at the common law upon certain other covenants specified in the indentures to the which actions your orator made answers And the abbot perceiving not to prevail in the actions was nonsuit in the same and discontinued his actions Nevertheless the abbot continuing in his malicious purpose against your orator hath now commenced an action of debt of 100 marks at the common law against your orator surmitting by the same that your orator should have let to farm to John Wright the tithe hay contrary to the covenant specified in the Indenture intending thereby to recover the 100 marks against your orator contrary to right and conscience And for as much as it is openly known in the County that John Wright hath occupied the tithe and that your orator hath no writing of the late abbot to show proving his especial licence and assent he is like to be condemned in the action of 100 marks contrary to right and conscience to his utter undoing unless your gracious lordship to him be shewed in this behalf.

Pledges for prosecution John Smith of London yeoman.
William Dycson of London Bruer.

Before the King in Chancery in the Octave of St. Martin next.

148. E.C.P. 777. 3. [*English*]

[After A.D. 1527].

To — — — Sir Thomas Audley, Kt., Lord Chancellor of England.

[1] Abbot from A.D. 1475 to 1499.
[2] William Evesham, abbot 1501 to 1504.

In most humble wise sheweth — — — Thomas Dale yeoman that where one Thomas Yeorke[1] abbot and [the] convent of the monastery of St. Peter and Hilda of Whitby ..... of Semer in Pekeryngleyth and parson of the Church of Semer by their deed ready to be shewed have demised and let to farm to your orator and one Rauff Bridkyrke the benefice of Semer with all manner fruits coming and growing of the town of Semer with the Teyndlathe[2] and tenements and all other profits belonging to the parsonage of Semer to have and to hold to Rauff and Thomas [for] the term of 15 years paying yearly therefor 30 quarters [of] wheat and that to be delivered in the garner of the monastery of Whytby and also paying yearly 82 quarters of barley malt, After which lease so made as before is said, Thomas then abbot and Rauff Bridkyrke 12 months after or thereabout died After whose decease one John Hixham[3] was elected and chosen abbot of Whytby, after whose election John now abbot did suffer your orator and [blank] the wife of Rauffe to occupy the farm of the parsonage quietly without trouble or vexation of John the abbot by the space of 4 years or thereabout, So it is and please your good lordship that now of late John the abbot of his malicious mind only intending the utter undoing of your orator sent one Robert Hastyngs to your orator to take half the parsonage with your orator and forasmuch as your orator would not suffer Robert Hastyngs to have the moiety or half deal of the benefice with him, Robert Hastings by the means enticement and commandment of John the abbot did break open the barn doors of the parsonage and there did not only take away as much corn of your orator's as was worth the sum of 38*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* as by particular bills thereof more plainly may appear but also hath clearly expulsed and put out your orator from the occupation of the farm of the benefice aforesaid, And forasmuch as John the abbot and Robert Hastyngs are men of great lands and substance in their country and there well friended and allied and your orator very poor having few friends and alliances he is not able to sue the common law against them and by reason thereof he is not only like to lose his corn but also the farm of the benefice unless your good lordship's favour to him be shewed in this behalf. It may therefore please your good lordship — — — *etc.* [*Plea for writs* sub pena *severally*] — — —

Langesford.

E.C.P. 777. 4. [*English*]

The answer of Robert Hastynges to the bill of complaint of Thomas Dale.

The said Robert saith that the bill is untrue uncertain and

[1] Abbot from A.D. 1517 to 1527.
[2] Teyndlathe, tithe barn.
[3] Abbot from A.D. 1527 to 1538.

insufficient in the law to be answered unto and the matter therein contained feigned and craftily imagined to the intent to put the defendant to unjust costs and expenses, And for answer the defendant saith that forasmuch as the bill is insufficient for divers apparent causes mentioned in the same and if the same bill were sufficient as it is not, yet the contents of the same be matters determinable and ought to be determined by the order of the common law of this Realm of England, whereunto Robert Hastyngs prayeth to be remitted, All which matters the defendant is ready to prove as this honourable Court will award and prayeth to be dismissed out of the same at his reasonable costs and expenses for his wrongful vexation and trouble sustained in this behalf.

Wykeham Priory.

149. E.C.P. 669. 22. [*English*]

[A.D. 1530].

To — — — Sir Thomas More, Kt. Lord Chancellor.

In most humble wise sheweth — — — Richard Rypley that where one Thomas Roston was seised in his demesne as of fee among other things of and in 8 messuages 300 acres of land with the appurtenances called Roston land in the County of Yeorke and so seised thereof died seised after whose death the premises descended and of right ought to descend to your orator as cousin and heir to Thomas Roston that is to say son to Mauld daughter of William son to Thomas son of Robert son of William son of William son to Thomas son to Robert son to William son to Thomas Roston And so it is and please your good lordship that one Katherine Endyk prioress of the monastery of Wycom in the County of York not only hath entered into the premises and the issues and profits thereof perceived and taken to the destruction of your orator and of his interest But also hath attained and gotten into her hands divers evidences charters deeds writings and muniments concerning the premises and of right belonging to your orator, of whom your orator hath divers and many times required delivery which at every time she hath denied and yet doth against right and good conscience — — — [*etc.* — — — *No remedy etc.* — — — *because no certainty etc.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena — —].

Chytley.

Endorsed [*Latin*] :—

Memorandum that on the 28th day of June 22 Henry VIII a day was given to Richard Rypley to make his reply hence to

Friday next after the Quindene of St. John Baptist next coming, by this Court.

E.C.P. 669. 23. [*Latin*]

A warrant by the King, dated 13 Jan. 22 Hen. VIII, to Ralph Evers, Kt., and Thomas Wentworth, Esquire, to take the reply of Katherine prioress of Wycom to the petition of Richard Ripley, since she is unable from weakness to appear in the King's Court of Chancery, and to send a certificate of her answer by the Quindene of Easter next.

E.C.P. 669. 24. [*English*]

Wells

The answer of Katherin Nandyk[1] prioress of Wykam to the bill of complaint of Richard Ripley.

The said Katherine saith that the bill of complaint and the matter therein contained is insufficient and uncertain in the law to be answered unto for so much that the complainant doth make pretence and title in his bill of complaint to 8 messuages 300 acres of lands with the appurtenances called Rustons ['Ruston is'] land in the County of York and sheweth not in what town or towns within the County the messuages and lands lieth for which uncertainty the prioress can have no knowledge where the lands lieth and therefore she ['shew'] can make no certain answer nor title for the lands Wherefore the prioress prayeth to be dismissed forth out of this honourable court with her costs and charges for her wrongful vexation and trouble in this behalf sustained Albeit if the prioress shall be compelled by this honourable court to make answer unto the uncertain and insufficient bill of complaint the advantage thereof to her saved she saith that truth it is that she hath and is seised as in the right of her Priory of and in certain lands and tenements in the County of York before said in one town there called Ruston and other towns within the County and that she and all her predecessors prioresses of the Priory hath thereof been seised as in the right of the monastery by the space of 200 years and more and by all the same time the now prioress and all other her predecessors prioresses of the Priory hath peaceably occupied the same as lawful was and is for them to do And further the prioress saith that she hath divers evidences charters and muniments concerning the lands in Ruston aforesaid and other places and towns in the County of York, which evidences charters and muniments the prioress and all her predecessors by all the time of 200 years and more keepeth and hath kept for preservation

[1] Prioress, *c.* 1508 to *c.* 1530.

of her and their good title and right in all and every of the premises as lawful it is for her and them to do Without that Thomas Roston was seised of and in the 8 messuages and 300 acres of land called Ruston is land as in the bill of complaint is alleged or that Thomas died seised of the same or that the messuages and lands descended or came or of right ought to descend or come unto Richard Rypley as cousin and heir to Thomas Roston as also in the bill of complaint it is also untruly surmitted or that Richard Rypley is cousin and heir or of kindred or blood unto Thomas Roston as in the bill of complaint named And without that the prioress hath any lands called Ruston is lands or that she hath any lands or tenements within the County of York but such lands and tenements as she and her predecessors hath been thereof seised as is aforesaid by all the time of 200 years and more And without that any other thing alleged in the bill of complaint materially to be answered unto which in this answer is not confessed and avoided is true All which matters the prioress is ready to prove as this honourable court will award and prayeth as here before in her answer she hath prayed etc.

[*Latin*].

And the aforesaid Katherine Nandyk has set in her place Richard Wells her attorney to gain or lose etc.

York, St. Mary's Abbey.

150. E.C.P. 7. 17. [*French*]

[A.D. 1391–1431, or 1449–1452].

To — — — the Archbishop of York, Primate and Chancellor of England.

Supplicates humbly his poor orator Joan de Wigmore that as our sovereign lord the King has in his donation a corrody within the Abbey of Our Lady in York which he gave to Joan for term of her life as appears by copy of her indenture, and as the suppliant is informed that formerly one Ralph Wayte had the same corrody by the donation of our lord the King, and he took more than the petitioner for his house fuel candles hay and oats for his horses and seven loaves each week for a livery, and after him one Master John de Barton had the corrody and he took much more than she as may be found in the Pipe at London, and after him one Richard de Sutton had the same corrody and took yearly for the term of his life more by 20*s*. than is contained in the aforesaid indenture because during his life more could not be assigned

and the King's right as is likely has fallen into arrear. May it please your very gracious lordship to consider this matter and make remedy thereof in saving and maintenance of the right of our very dread lord the King, as well as in aid and relief of the suppliant. By God and in the cause of charity.

151. E.C.P. 25. 222. [*English*]

[A.D. 1454–1456].

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Sheweth and complaineth to your lordship the abbot and Convent of the monastery of our Blessed Lady of York, that where William West, John Ponsonby, Thomas Falle, Robert Greyson, Perys Botler, Thomas Quarriont and other servants of your complainants were in God's peace and the King's our sovereign lord, on the 22nd day of May in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord the 33rd, in a place called St. Marigate within the precinct of the monastery, one John Marshall of York, clerk, the said day year and place riotously with many other misdoers to the number of 40 persons and more then accompanied with him with force and arms, that is to say Jacks, salettes, bows, arrows, swords, bucklers, lancegays and other weapons of defence against the King's peace, came and then and there made assault and affray upon the said servants and them then beat wounded and divers of them maimed and left in peril of death; and over that John Marshall and the other misdoers continuing their malice and misgovernance divers times since the 22nd day of May have assaulted, affrayed and menaced the servants so that they dare not go about the service and occupations of the abbot and convent, to their great hurt and prejudice and letting of divine service in the monastery. Please it your gracious lordship, considering these premises, to grant to your beseechers a writ *sub pena* according to an Act made in the last Parliament to be directed to John Marshall, commanding him straitly by the same to appear before the King and his Council in the fortnight ['quynsym'] of St. Michael next following, upon pain of 200*li.*, there and then to answer your complainants — — — [*etc.*].

152. E.C.P. 43. 32. [*English*] [*Slightly mutilated*]

[A.D. 1467–72, and perhaps 1433–43].

Unto — — — the Bishop of Bath, Chancellor of England.

Beseecheth right humbly your poor orator the abbot of St.

Mary Abbey of York where one John Hugate servant to the abbot now late keeping ..... his common in the forest of Galtres there came divers persons unknown grimed and disfigured to be out of knowledge and beat and grievously wounded the said servant and him there left for dead, And thereupon came to York to ..... -ight soon afore midnight William Schupton gentleman John Aleyn of Wigyngton husbandman William Vessee of the same town cart[wri]ght Richard Vaws of the same town husbandman William Dayhouse of Alne Waller Henry Abell of Haxby husbandman .....-sley of Wigyngton husbandman [John Fenton *struck out*] of Hoby [Foster *struck out*] and John Osburn of Sutton husbandman with other riotous persons of the forest to the number of 300 or 400 armed and arrayed in manner of war with haberg-..... -aves bows arrows and other weapons And there violently with great force the pale of the abbot adjoining to the wall of the Abbey hewed and broke down and shouted and cried and shot arrows there at men's doors and .....-de-.....-pt stalls at every end of the streets about the Abbey to have beaten and slain such as had come to have made them resistance in great affray and disturbance and dishonour of the abbot and his servants that coming got .....-yer divine service from their church. .....

[*Plea for writs* sub pena *against* John Aleyn *and others.*

153. E.C.P. 418. 51. [*English*] [*Much faded*]

[A.D. 1515–1518].

To — — — Thomas Cardinal Archbishop of York and Chancellor.

In most humble wise sheweth and complaineth — — — Ralph Halle that where as one Edmund[1] abbot of the monastery of St. Mary's Abbey without the walls of York was seised of and in the Manors of Dalby and Spawneton with their appurtenances in the County of York and also of and in a certain parcel of meadow called the Hallyng being in the lordship of Normanby and of and in 2 (?) cottages with the appurtenances in Lastyngham and Rossedale in the parish of Lastyngham and in the said County And also of and in the moiety or half part of ..... of Apylton in the county abovesaid in his demesne as of fee in the right of his monastery and he so being seised thereof with the whole assent and consent of his convent by deed indented and sealed with their conventual seal demised and let the manors and other the premises unto one Edmund Fell and Margaret Smyth to have and to hold the same to them and their assigns for term of ..... And also delivered unto Edmund Fell and Margaret divers deeds charters

[1] Edmund Thornton, abbot A.D. 1507-1521.

evidences rentals Court rolls boundaries and other writings concerning the manors and other premises for the sure conserving of their estate and the interest in the same premises of the knowledge of the particulars of the suits rents and other profits parcel of the manors and also of one piece of land parcel thereof and the boundaries of the same by force whereof Edmund Fell and Margaret entered into the premises and were thereof possessed by virtue of the lease unto Edmund and Margaret by their deed demised and granted unto your orator all their estate right title and interest in the same premises and in every part thereof by force whereof your orator entered the same and is thereof yet possessed by virtue of the same So it is most gracious lord that divers of the deeds charters and evidences belonging and appertaining unto your orator for the right and maintenance of his estate in his lease in the premises And also divers of the rentals Court rolls boundaries and other writings belonging to the manors and to the other premises be come into the hands and custody of one Robert Walkington who wrongfully withholdeth the same from your orator for ..... having Whereof your orator cannot have the true and perfect knowledge of the rents and suits belonging to the manors nor yet of all the particulars of the lands parcel of the same manors and other the premises by reason and occasion whereof he is .....and let to take a great part of the profits of the premises and is thereby greatly impoverished — — — [*No remedy at common law because no certainty of the number etc. of the evidences — — — Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : Thos. Wootton of London, hosier.
John Dune of the same, yeoman.

— — — in the Octave of Trinity next.

154. E.C.P. 361. 10. [*English*]

[A.D. 1506].

To — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor

Humbly sheweth — — — Henry Lord Scrop of Upsale and Alice his wife daughter and heir of Thomas late Lord Scrope of Upsale, that where as the said Henry and Alice in the right of Alice and others to their use are possessed and seised in their demesne as of fee of and in the manors of Upsale Aynderbe with the Stepyll Nosterfeld Hunton Ecclesall and Woodlathes in the County of Yorke, the manors of Haverbergh Holwel Ketylby Harborowe and Bowdon in the County of Leycestre and the manor of Fyshed in the County of Essex with the appurtenances and advowsons And divers charters evidences and muniments concerning the premises are come to the custody and possession of one Robert[1]

[1] Robert Worhope, abbot A.D. 1502 to 1507.

abbot of the monastery of St. Mary without the walls of Yorke And notwithstanding your orators oft times have desired and required the abbot to make delivery of the evidences charters and muniments which to do ever he hath denied and yet denieth contrary to all right and conscience — — — [*etc.* — — — *no remedy at the common law because no certainty etc.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Polley of London, gent.
Rich. Walys of London, yeoman.

— — — in the Quindene of Michaelmas next.

E.C.P. 362. 11. [*Latin*]

Henry by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland to his beloved William Fayrfax servant at the law Greeting Whereas Henry Lord Scrop and Alicia his wife have lately exhibited before us in our Chancery a certain petition against the abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary without the walls of York and because we ordered the same abbot by our brief that he should be before us in our Chancery at a certain day now past under a certain pain in our brief contained to answer to the petition And the abbot is so weak ['*impotens sui*'] that, as we hear, he cannot without great bodily danger labour so far as to our Court of Chancery at that day to make his answer to the petition

.....

Order to William Fairfax authorising him to examine the abbot and take his answer in writing and to report to Chancery three weeks from Michaelmas next.

Dated 8 July 21 Henry VII [1506].

Endorsed [*Latin*] :—

I William Fairfax certify to the King in his Chancery that on the 28th day of August in the 22nd year of his reign I went to the abbot Robert at Ourton and took his answer to the petition according to the tenor of the brief.

And further the abbot Robert set in his place John Grenethen to gain or lose according to the tenor of the brief.

E.C.P. 361. 12.

A Copy of 361. 10, without address or endorsement.

E.C.P. 361. 13. [*English*]

The answer of Robert the abbot of the monastery of Our Lady St. Mary without the walls of York to the bill of complaint of Henry Lord Scrop of Upsale and Alicia his wife.

The abbot saith that 2 great chests bound with iron locked

and enclosed belonging to Thomas late lord Scrope of Upsale deceased, wherein divers evidences concerning the inheritance of the late lord Scrope were in the house of the Friars Austin at York in the keeping of William Bewyk[1] prior of the same house And so it was that after the decease of the late lord upon 10 years past one Robert Constable servant at the law of the Council of the now lord Scrope of Upsale and other councillors by the assent and advice of the now lord Scrope and of my lord Scrope of Bolton his father and also of one Ralph Scrope heir male to the late lord Scrope of Upsale who claimed the chests and evidences pretending title thereunto as heir male to the late lord Scrope desired one William[2] late Bishop of Carlyll then abbot of the monastery of Our Lady to take the keeping upon him and charge of the chests with evidences which utterly he refused to do Whereupon the Councillors and Ralph made especial instance and desire to the Bishop to lease and let them a house within the monastery to set in the 2 chests with evidences And the Bishop was thereto content And let them a house within the monastery to put the 2 chests in at the charge and jeopardy of the lord and Ralph so that the Bishop nor his successors should not be charged with the keeping of the 2 chests nor evidences What casualty or hurt should ever fall to the same Nor the Bishop nor his successors should not be troubled vexed nor sued for the same at any time here after And according to the same the 2 chests with the evidences was brought by the Councillors and Ralph into the house so lent by the Bishop within the monastery and thereupon also well by the assent of Ralph as of the Councillors the chests were locked with divers new made keys, which keys were there and then severally delivered to Ralph and to the Councillors of indifferency that neither party should meddle with the evidences nor the chests open except the other party were there present, which chests with evidences resteth yet so locked in the house according to the premises And after the Bishop died and Robert now abbot was elected and chosen abbot of the monastery And forasmuch as the abbot found the 2 chests with evidences in the house so lent as afore is rehearsed he prayeth that as well Ralph Scrope may be called in by this Court for the premises as that the 2 chests with the evidences may be ordered in delivery of the same as this Court will award and ordain according to right and good conscience without any further vexation trouble or cost to the abbot Without that any evidences charters or muniments concerning the Manor of Upsale or any other manors lands or tenements in the said bill specified other than in the chests and in form aforesaid at any time came to the custody and possession of the abbot, All which matter the abbot is ready to prove as this Court will award and prayeth to be dismissed out of the same with his reasonable costs for his wrongful trouble and vexation in this behalf.

[1] Not recorded in Baildon.

[2] William Sever, abbot A.D. 1485 to 1502. Bishop of Carlisle, 1495.

155. E.C.P. 736. 26. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1533–1538].

To — — — Sir Thomas Audley, Kt., Lord Chancellor of England.

In their most humble wise shew and complain — — — Thomas Browne and Alice his wife That where your orators at the manor of Airmyn[1] in the County of York, the 10th day of October in the 13th year of our sovereign Lord King Henry the VIIIth took by copy of Court roll out of the hands of the lord a tenement with 3 crofts and 3 acres and a half of land and meadow in Airmyn and also a windmill for term of the lives of Thomas and Alice and the longest liver of them, and paid unto the lord their fine and were admitted tenants according to the custom of the manor for term of their lives, which custom of the manor is and time out of mind hath been that the lord thereof for the time being may let and demise the premises in fee simple, in fee tail, term of life, or otherwise, by virtue whereof your orators entered into the premises and were thereof seised in their demesne as of free hold according to the said custom, And ever since the 13 years, they have peaceably occupied and enjoyed the same and have from time to time until this present day well and truly contented and paid unto the lord of the manor all manner of rents duties and services to him reserved by reason of the premises unto this present day And so it is most honourable lord, that your orators being of great [*sc.* age] and in especial Thomas Browne being both deaf ['death'] blind and lame, not able nor of power to help himself And having little or nothing to help himself withal And upon such threats as the lord abbot of York gave unto your orators' wife, for sorrow and ..... whereof she ran mad out of her wits and would have drowned herself if her neighbours had not run after her and pulled her by force from the water side, and she yet continueth in the same rage, Furthermore the abbot, lord of the said manor, without any good ground or reasonable cause wrong ..... hath oppressed and put out of the premises your orators, which abbot intendeth to grant and demise the ..... kinsman of his own to the utter undoing and impoverishing of your orators for ever if the ..... abbot should be permitted and suffered (which God defend), In consideration whereof and ..... orators be of such great debility and age and also in necessity nothing able to sue against the ..... abbot being lord of the manor ..... Wherefore the premises tenderly considered ..... and enjoy their lease unto such time as the abbot shall shew .....-sonable cause Why they should not enjoy the lease, according to equity and

[1] Possibly Whitgift with Airmyn, near York; or more probably, Airmyn, near Goole.

..... reverence of God and in the way of charity, And your poor orators shall daily pray ..... of your good lordship long to continue and endure.
— — — in the Quindene of Michaelmas next.

156. E.C.P. 765. 46. [*English*]

[After A.D. 1530].

To — — — Sir Thomas Audley, Kt., Lord Chancellor of England.

In most humble wise sheweth and complaineth — — — Sir John Constable the younger Kt. and Dame Joan his wife, William Kenevett Esq. and Dame Katherine Strekelond his wife, Anne Nevell and Mary Nevell ..... one Rauffe Nevell of Thornton Brygg in the County of York Esq. deceased, father unto Joan and Katherine and grandfather to Anne and Mary, whose heirs Joan Katherine Anne and Mary ..... be ..... seised in his demesne as of fee by good and just title of inheritance to him descended from his ancestors of and in the manors of Thornton, Kirkeby, Cundall Lettby and Ledys with their appurtenances in the County of York and of and in the manor of Carulbery with the appurtenances in the bishopr-[-ic *of Durha*-]-me and of and in three hundred acres of meadow, two hundred acres of pasture, five hundred ..... of wood in Thorneton, Kyrkeby, Coundalle Carulberry Lettby and Ledys and so seised thereof died seised, After whose death the premises descended and of right ought to descend unto Katherine Joan Anne and Mary, that is to say, to Katherine and Joan as two of the daughters and heirs of Rauffe and to Anne and Mary as cousins and heirs of Rauffe Nevell, So it is most gracious lord that divers escripts muniments rentals and Court rolls belonging to the manors lands and tenements be come to the hands and keeping of William[1] abbot of St. Mary's of York, Richard Grene and William Haryngton, and albeit sovereign lord, that your orator hath many and divers times required delivery of the evidences of William abbot of the monastery aforesaid, Richard Grene and William Haryngton, which to do they ..... refused and yet doth refuse and deny contrary to all right and good conscience, but also by colour of the same have contrived and made divers and sundry estates false and ..... conveyances of and in all the manors lands and tenements with their appurtenances to the great disinheritance of your orator And forasmuch your orator knoweth not the certainty — — — [*etc.* — — — *Pleas for writs* sub pena *severally*] — — —

John Huntley.
..... Bulstrede.
Gryffyn.

— — — in the Quindene of Michaelmas (?) next.

[1] William Thornton or Dent, last abbot, A.D. 1530.

157. E.C.P. 931. 41. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1533–38].

To — — — Sir Thos. Audley, Kt., Chancellor — — —

— — — sheweth — — — your daily orator .... the City of Yorke that where your orator and his predecessors by the space of three hundred years ..... as of fee as in the right of their monastery of and in the manor of Spaunton set lying and being in ..... royalties commodities profits gressomes fines and amerciaments to the same manor in any wise pertaining or ..... your orator and his predecessors have by all the same time peaceably taken and received, until now of late, that is to say about the 12 day of June last past and divers other times before and after that, one Sir John Bulmer of Wylton in the County of York Kt. of his own mere wrong (not regarding the due order of the King's laws) hath entered into a parcel of the manor and there hath cut down divers great trees and woods growing within the manor and hath also broken certain parcels of ground within the manor against the will of your orator, whereof he hath taken out of the same certain stones for his building, and daily causeth divers tenants of your orator to deny their rents suits and customs, intending to obtain the same to his own proper use, against all equity right and conscience, And over this most honourable lord, divers deeds charters and evidences concerning the manor be come unto the hands and custody of Sir John Bulmer (the number and certainty whereof or wherein they be contained your orator knoweth not) albeit that your orator hath often and many times required — — — [*etc.....clause of denial*] — — — And forasmuch as your orator is a religious man and not of power to try the same with Sir John Bulmer in those parts, by cause of such friendship and alliance as he hath within the County of York, In consideration whereof — — [*etc.....Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

York, St. Andrew's Priory.

158. E.C.P. 363. 57. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1505].

To — — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Humbly sheweth — — — John[1] the prior of the house of St.

[1] Unrecorded in Baildon.

Andrew in the City of York and the convent of the same house that where they your orators and their predecessors have been and are possessed and seised of and in 5 acres of ground in a close lying in the parish of Allhallows in the said City in their demesnes as of fee the which close is now claimed by William[1] the abbot of Whytby by reason of divers evidences and leases which be come to the hands of the abbot by one Sir John Rypley late deceased which was late steward of the house of the orators By force whereof the abbot with the great favour which he hath of divers and many of the great rulers of the City daily vexeth and troubleth your orators in so much that they dare not occupy their ground for fear of the vexation and trouble as well by distress as other wise notwithstanding heretofore when the predecessors of the abbot made title and claim to the close and ground Before the King's Justice Master James Hubart and other then being at York about 10 years past Whereupon Master James Hubard viewed and saw the ground and there by the evidences of your orators there it was proved to be the right of the house of your orators That notwithstanding the abbot which is a man of great riches and might and his house of great lands and possessions intending the utter disinheritance of your orators Which may not dispend by year above 40 marks and are in great poverty unless your gracious lordship to them be shewed in this behalf And forsomuch as your orators have oft and many times required the abbot to redeliver to them the evidences and leases, the which to do the abbot at all times hath refused and yet refuseth contrary to right and all good conscience And forsomuch — — — [*etc.* — — — *No remedy at common law, because ignorant of the number etc. of the documents.* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : William Symsam of London Smith.
John Raulin of the same Tailor.

— — — in the Quindene of Hilary next.

York, Holy Trinity Priory.

159. E.C.P. 11. 515. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1467–1472].

To — — — the Bishop of Bath, Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth unto your lordship William prior of Tykford by ..... Newton Paynell that where one Thomas Darnton[2]

[1] Died 1505.
[2] Prior, A.D. 1464-1465.

late prior of the said Priory was seised and possessed of divers evidences and muniments concerning lands ..... advowsons rents services fees annuities and other divers hereditaments belonging to the Priory of Tykford, the which evidences and muniments Thomas at that time prior in divers places to your suppliant unknown embezzled and laid them to pledge, And after that Thomas resigned the .....-y and now is made prior of St. Trinity of York, and after that your suppliant was made prior of the house of Tykford, and since that time at div-.....-tyns hath desired and required Thomas prior of St. Trinity in York to deliver the evidences and muniments to him or else to inform him where he hath embezzled them, and Thomas that to do utterly refuseth, wherefore your suppliant and his church for lack of the evidences and muniments be greatly impoverished and [have] lost great part of their inheritance Wherefore please it — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

Pledges for prosecution { John Kyrkeby of West Thurrok in Co. Essex, clerk, Willm. Rycarde of Chichele in Co. Bucks., clerk.

160. E.C.P. 47. 225. [*English*]

[A.D. 1472–3 and 1475].

This is the answer of Dan Robert Marchall and Dan John Garland unto the bill of Dan Robert Huby untruly calling him(self) prior of the Holy Trinity of York.

Robert Marchall and John Garland say that they have here as they understand no competent judge to decide and determine the matter contained in the bill concerning spiritual and religious correction, and if it be proved and thought by this Court they have sufficient authority and power and be competent judges to decide and determine such matters contained in the bill touching spiritual corrections, then they say that Robert Huby naming himself prior of the Holy Trinity of York is not nor ought not to be prior there, but one Thomas Darnton is and ought to be very true prior of the place; and also is Ordinary and Vicar-General of their Religion, to whom of right and none other [be]longeth and pertaineth all spiritual correction; moreover they say that the matter contained in the bill is untrue and also non-sufficient and non-certain to put them to answer, and over that the more part of the matter contained in the bill is spiritual matter and not determinable in this Court but in Spiritual Court and within their Religion, and the residue of the matter is clearly determinable at the temporal law, and in which matter as be determinable at the common law they ought not to be put to answer without their sovereign, for all

which causes they pray to be dismissed out of this Court; and for more declaration of the truth they say and either of them saith that for such offences as touch spiritual correction they have submitted them to the correction of their religion, and there by the authority of their Sovereign and their Religion they be dispensed with [*and therefore ought not to be charged again*] and as to the residue of the matter not guilty — — —

[*Prayer for dismissal with costs*].

161. E.C.P. 123. 7. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth — — — Elys Bell, clerk, that wh-..... -ery of the Holy Trinity within the City of York granted and let to farm to your orator a messuage set and lying within the parish of St. ..... and to hold the messuage to your orator during the life natural of the prior paying therefor yearly unto him a certain sum of ..... and agreed your orator finding reparations necessary to the messuage, And your orator according to the grant aforesaid being ..... and made divers other costs to the value of 40*li.* upon the messuage by the assent desire and motion of the prior and now of ..... the messuage to be of greater value yearly than it was at the time of the grant made by reason of the costs aforesaid made ..... orator to avoid from the possession of the messuage And forasmuch most gracious lord that your orator hath no specialty co-..... to testify the grant he is without remedy ..... [*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Hunt of London, tailor.
John Hakley of London, yeoman.

162. E.C.P. 355. 40. [*English*]

[A.D. 1504–1515].

To — — — — William Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Meekly beseecheth — — — Aland Staffley and John Dogeson of the City of York Aldermen that where your orators are seised in certain lands and tenements in the City of York in their demesne as of fee So it is gracious lord That divers evidences charters and muniments concerning the lands and tenements be come to the hands and possession of one Robert Halowes[1] prior of the House of the Trinity within the City of York Whom your orators divers and many times have required to deliver unto them the premises

[1] Not recorded in Baildon.

which to do he at all times hath refused and yet doth contrary to right and good conscience and forasmuch as your orators knoweth not the certain number of them — — — [*etc.* — — — *no remedy at the common law* — — — *Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Warde of London yeoman.
Thos. Warde of London yeoman.

— — — for Easter next in three weeks.

York, Austin Friars.

163. E.C.P. 18. 37. [*English*]

[A.D. 1449–1452].

To — — — John Cardinal Archbishop of York and Chancellor of England.

Meekly beseecheth — — — the prior and convent of the Austin Friars in the City of York, that forasmuch as one Thomas Gare merchant of the said City gave in his life time and delivered by his own hands unto the prior and convent 100 marks to the intent that there should a friar of the same house sing every day perpetually for the soul of Thomas, as by a composition made between the prior and convent and Thomas sealed under their seals more plainly it appeareth; and so soon after the death of Thomas one Thomas Gare, son to Thomas, came unto the prior and convent and prayed them to lend unto him the 100 marks, and so the 100 marks was delivered unto Thomas the son and he bound himself unto the prior and convent in four simple obligations at four days to be paid, as it appeareth more plainly in the obligations; and before that any day of payment was come of the obligations Thomas the son made Elayne his wife his executor and died; after whose death the prior and convent came unto Elayne and required her as executrix unto her husband and in discharge of his soul and also in fulfilling of the intent abovesaid, and in consideration also how that the House is bound to sing for Thomas the father perpetually, that she should deliver unto them the 100 marks, at which time Elayne paid unto the prior and convent 7*li.* and odd money in part payment of the 100 marks; and after and divers times since the prior and convent have come to Elayne for to have had the residue of the 100 marks, which to do she hath refused and yet doth, against all right; Wherefore please it unto your gracious lordship these premises tenderly to consider and how your poor orators have naught and be in so great poverty that they may not sue the common law in so mickle

that the Dorter of the poor House is ruinous and fallen down, and have naught to the repairing of the same without your gracious lordship be showed to the recovering of the residue of the 100 marks and to grant — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena].

York, Black Friars.

164. E.C.P. 162. 54. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–1493, or 1504–1515].

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

Humbly sheweth and complaineth — — — John Selby of the City of York, gentleman, that where your beseecher is seised in his demesne as of fee of and in certain tenements with the appurtenances in the City of York and the suburbs of the same, And divers charters evidences and muniments concerning the tenements be come to the hands of one Sir Richard Mason[1] prior of the Black freres called Tofftes in the City of York, And often times your suppliant hath required the prior to deliver him the charters evidences and muniments according to right, And that to do the prior at all times hath refused and yet refuseth against all right and conscience, And forasmuch as your beseecher knoweth not the very number nor content of the charters evidences and muniments he is without remedy — — —[*Plea for writ* sub pena].

Pledges : John Semar of London, yeoman.
Richard Serle of London, yeoman.

Endorsed :—

Before the Lord King in his Chancery in the Quindene of Holy Trinity next coming.

165. E.C.P. 161. 55. [*English*]

[A.D. 1486–93, and 1504–1515].

The answer of Richard Mason, prior of the Black Friars in York called Toftes in the bill of complaint of John Selby.

The prior saith that the bill is not certain nor sufficient to be answered unto and the matter therein contained [is] determinable at the common law and not in this Court, whereto he prayeth to be remitted and the advantage thereof to him saved for declaration

[1] Not recorded in Baildon.

of the truth saith by protestation not knowing that Selby is seised of any such tenements in the City of York or suburbs of the same and for answer saith that one William Mowebray, gentleman, delivered to the prior a coffer locked safely to be kept and to be delivered again to the said Mowbray when the prior should thereto be required; what is contained therein, whether evidences concerning any tenements in York or in the suburbs of York or other things, it is unknown to the prior; which coffer the prior is ready to do therewith as this Court shall order him so that he may be sufficiently discharged thereof by the law, without that the prior hath any evidences to his knowledge concerning any such tenements in York or suburbs of York whereof Selby is seised in manner and form as by the bill is supposed; all which matters the prior is ready to prove and make good as this Court will award and prayeth to be dismissed with reasonable costs and charges for his wrongful vexation and trouble sustained in this behalf.

York, Grey Friars.

166. E.C.P. 858. 20–21. [*English*]

858. 20. [*No address*].

In their most humble wise complaining sheweth — — — Robt. Metham Brian Roclyff and Margery his wife, administrators of the goods and chattels of Dame Eliz. Metham widow Whereas Dame Eliz. Metham in her life time and nigh before her death upon especial trust and confidence did deliver unto Willm. Vavasor[1] Doctor of Divinity and Warden of the Grey Friars within the City of York 32*li*. 19*s*. safely to keep for certain charitable acts to be done for the well of her soul after her death as by one Indenture thereof made between Dame Elizabeth and the Doctor more plainly it doth appear, which charitable acts Robert Metham with others more caused to be done at their own proper costs and charges, after which acts done and forasmuch as Doctor Vavasor since the death of Dame Elizabeth hath had no such charges nor distributed the money according to the Indenture, your orators have divers times required payment of the Doctor of the sum of 32*li*. 19*s*. which to pay he hath always refused and yet doth against all right and good conscience In consideration whereof — — — [*etc. Plea for writ* sub pena] — — —

858. 21. *Hynde Lymsey*

The Answer of Willm. Vavasour Warden of the Greyfreers

[1] Last Warden; no dates apparently known.

in York to the bill of complaint of Robt. Metham Brian Rocklyfe and Margerye his wife.

The defendant saith that the bill of complaint is uncertain — — — [*etc.*] — — — and for answer the defendant saith that the same Dame Elizabeth Metham a little before her death by bill indented bearing date the 21st day of April in the year of Our Lord God MCCCCCXXIIII delivered a chest into the Vestry within the church of the Greyffreers of Yorke wherein was the sum of money mentioned in the bill, which chest was locked with 2 locks and the keys thereof were remaining the one of them in the custody of the defendant and the other of them in the possession of Elizabeth, the money to be bestowed to such uses and intents and after such form and manner as by the bill indented is specified mentioned and declared, as by the same bill indented ready to be shewed more plainly doth appear, And after[-wards] Elizabeth in her life caused 10*li.* parcel of the sum mentioned in the bill to be delivered to the defendant to deliver to one Walter Bradeford, which 10*li.* the defendant delivered to Walter Bradford, and also Elizabeth delivered to the defendant 4*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* therewith to make her tomb, which 4*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* the defendant paid to 2 masons for the making of the tomb, And after[-wards] Elizabeth died, after whose death Robt. Metham now complainant one Robt. Wade clerk and the defendant came to the Vestry where the chest was set and opened the chest, and Robt. Wade by the assent of Robt. Metham took the residue of the sum of money out of the chest and delivered to the defendant as much as was assigned by the bill to be disposed to the four orders of Friars within the City of Yorke over and beside 13*s.* 4*d.* to be paid to two poor folks according to the bill, which sums of money delivered to the defendant by Robt. Wade the defendant delivered and paid accordingly, And Robt. Wade delivered all the residue of the sum of money mentioned in the bill to be paid and disposed according to the tenure of the bill indented, without that Elizabeth Metham delivered unto the defendant the sum of 32*li.* 19*s.* or any part thereof safely to keep other than the 14*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* before mentioned, or that Robt. Metham or any other person caused of their proper costs and charges the charitable acts as in the bill is untruly surmitted or that the defendant hath not distributed the sums of money as came at any time to his hands after the death of Elizabeth according to the bill indented or that anything material contained in the bill not by this answer sufficiently answered confessed and avoided or traversed is true All which matters — — — [*etc. Plea for discharge with costs*] — — —

York, St. Leonard's Hospital.[1]

167. E.C.P. 6. 336. [*French*]

[A.D. 1388–91, 1399–1426, or 1456–1459].

To — — — the Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor of England.

Pledges for prosecution { Thos. Scotton. / John Wyther.

Beseech humbly your poor Chaplains and continual orators the Master Brethren Sisters and poor patients ['languissaunts'] of the Hospital of St. Leonard of York which is of the patronage of our most dread lord the King and of the foundation of his noble progenitors and of which you are Visitor by reason of your honourable office, that whereas your Chaplains have in the township of Heslyngton a turbary which is their several and which both they and their predecessors have enjoyed and continued in possession from time beyond memory as their several, as by record has been proved and found during this time the several of the Hospital, as by many evidences and muniments which they have to show and by the record which they have exemplified more plainly appears; and now of late it pleased our lord the King, in the reverence of God and for the tranquillity of his chaplains and orators by writ to the honourable lord the Earl of Westmoreland, the lord Fitzhugh and Richard de Norton, one of the Justices, to cause to come before them or two of them both the party of the Hospital and also John de Neuson and Nicholas Warthill, Esquires, who wilfully and without leave of your orators had caused turves to be dug in the aforesaid several and proposed to continue this to the great loss and destruction of the Hospital, charging them to see and to hear what the two parties could show to them in this matter and doing to the aggrieved party right and reason in their discretion; wherein your orators were ready to show their right before the Earl and Richard, but John and Nicholl also appearing there were not willing to show anything in justification of their digging of turves as the Earl has informed you; and still John and Nicholl from day to day continue their wrong and misdoing, proposing by their alliance and threats to disturb your allies in their several. May it please your very reverend paternity to consider the interests of our lord the King in this part, and as John and

[1] There is a valuable detailed account of the internal economy of this Hospital in C.I.M. 718 (93. 24), of 17 Edw. II.

Nicholl are so great in the country that your orators have no power to maintain their right or to recover by the common law — — — [*petition for writs to be issued by the Sheriffs of Yorkshire, who are to certify the Chancellor of their delivery and receipt*].

168. E.C.P. 7. 42. [*French*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1391–1431, or 1449–1452].

To — — — the Archbishop of York, Primate and Chancellor of England.

Supplicate humbly the Master Brethren and poor patients ['languissaunts'] of the Hospital of St. Leonard at York that it is of the foundation of the very noble progenitors of our sovereign lord the King himself that the petitioners have time beyond memory one thrave of corn to be taken yearly at the Feast of St. Martin in winter from each carucate of arable in the Counties of York, Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancaster in the province of York, and as ..... sheaves in the same manner as the corn which is gained by each carucate, the which thraves are the great substance of the living of the petitioners and others living in the Hospital, that is to say, of a Master ..... 4 secular Chaplains, 30 choristers and 2 masters, one to teach the choristers in music and the other in grammar, 200 poor patients, men and women, and 6 female servants to serve the patients, and [they] have been thus ..... peaceably seised as of right of the Hospital until now of late that one Richard Thirnscogh, vicar of the church of Silkston in the County of York and in the said Province, imagining finally to disinherit the said ..... and also to escape the charge of the thraves which he should pay for the lands which he has had and now has, and divers other persons having carucates in like manner chargeable, have made divers congregations, conventicles and confederacies ..... as elsewhere in the County of York to the sole intent that if any plea or demand is or shall be made against them or any of them by the petitioners for the thraves aforesaid, they by their common ..... would make ..... to make default and disinherit the petitioners of the thraves; And since the petitioners are not able in goods nor in power to sue against Richard without your gracious help and support, because of the great diminutions ..... aforesaid in the disinheritance of our sovereign lord the King and of the Hospital and the final destruction of the poor estate of the petitioners, May it please your very reverend Paternity and very gracious lordship to consider the premises and as the thraves are ..... through all the said counties because of the confederacies and maintenance aforesaid if speedy remedy in this case be not provided and principally against Richard — — — [*etc. Plea for writs* sub pena]. — — —

169. E.C.P. 32. 145. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1464–1470, or perhaps 1479–1482].

To the King our liege lord.

Meekly beseeching your highness your poor continual orators the Brethren Sistren and poor bedemen and women of your Hospital of St. Leonard in York, the which is of your patronage, founded by your noble progenitors, kings of England, before time out of mind, of a Master, 13 priests, 8 Sisters, 4 secular priests, 30 Choristers, 2 Schoolmasters one of them to teach grammar and the other music, 206 poor bedemen and women, 6 servants to keep them in sickness and disease, and of time that no mind is to the contrary so therein hath been had, continued and occupied, for sustenance of whom in th-..... foundation thereof in especial was given and granted one thrave of corn commonly called 'Petrecorne' of every plough going ['erand'] within your County of York, Westmoreland and Cumberland and Lancashire within the Province of York yearly to be taken and had, which thraves of corn your suppliants and their predecessors have been possessed of of time that no memory is to the contrary and at all times hath been the great substance and possession whereby your suppliants and their predecessors have been sustained ..... Sovereign lord that ..... divers persons [who] inhabit in divers places within the Westriding of your Shire of York have now late considered them together to withdraw the same Petrecorne from the Hospital, and charged the gatherers and collectors of the same thraves of corn to gather nor ask none of the thraves nor corn from henceforth upon pain of their lives .....-ave given comfort and ..... to other folks that would have paid the thraves none to pay And made a common purse for the defence of the same to the likely [undoing ?] of your Hospital wh-.....-portation to them to be shewed in this behalf. It please therefore your Highness to give in commandment as shall to your most reverend father-.....-gland as to the Keeper of your Privy Seal to direct writs of sub pena — — — [*etc.*] — — —

170. E.C.P. 182. 21. [*English*] [*Mutilated*]

[A.D. 1486–93 and 1505–1515].

To — — — the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of England.

..... Hospital of St. Leonard in York and the brethren of the same, which Hospital is of the patronage of our sovereign lord th-..... [found-]ation and ordinance in the foundation of the

Hospital, That where one Thomas Fenton of Huby in the County of York, yeoman, son and ..... Thomas to the number of 14 defencefully arrayed by the excitation and procuring of the said John the 25th day of April last past riotou-..... King's Forest of Galtres and into a barn set in the said close of your beseechers for to 'herber' hay for the sustenance of their cattle .....-y of the barn hewed and cut asunder and the barn drew down and utterly destroyed and despoiled And the close and the grass there .....-urt. And over this the said Thomas continuing his riotous disposition the 8th day of July last past made an assault upon one John Hawe .....-wayt aforesaid and upon John Staveley servant to your beseechers then being with the said John Hawdelesse then coming thither to see ..... in Winter and the said John Staveley grievously beat, saying that your beseechers shall not have any profit of the said ground nor their ..... John Fenton his father be made their Storer and keeper of their cattle there and having none other occasion to do thus to your beseechers but because they ..... -esaid, Wherefore please it to your lordship tenderly to consider the premises and the riotous and evil disposition that John and Thomas be of and the evil ..... should obtain offices by violence against the will of them that should ..... their own officers and also the great hurt that might fall there by both to your beseechers ..... Hospital, that pray for the King's highness daily, to direct unto the said John and Thomas several Writs sub pena .....

Pledges : .....

171. E.C.P. 299. 15. [*English*]

[After A.D. 1510].

To — — — William Bishop of Canterbury and Chancellor.

Piteously complaineth — — — John Constable clerk Master and Warden of the Hospital of St. Leonard of York and the brethren of the same hospital that where they and their predecessors Wardens and Brethren of the Hospital have time out of mind been peaceably seised in the right of their Hospital of a capital messuage and 200 acres of land meadow and pasture with the appurtenances in Hutton Cranswyk in fee and thereof take the issues and profits to their own use unto now of late that one William Whytyng of his extort mind and [*torn*] power hath entered in to the lands and tenements pretending that the lands be of his inheritaunce by the grant of the Master and brethren a great time past, which is untrue and for somuch as the said John [*sic*] Whytyng is a man of great substance and power and ruleth a great part of the County and that the Master and Brethren by reason of their great hospitality [*are*] of such poverty that they be not able to

sue for their right by the course of the common law ..... [*Plea for writ* sub pena, *to make John Whytyng amove his possession and restore the issues*].

Pledges : John Roo of London mercer.
Ric. Laing of the Same yeoman.

— — — in the Quindene of Trinity next.

172. E.C.P. 694. 7. [*English*]

[A.D. 1529–1532, probably nearer the later year].

To — — — Sir Thomas Moore, Kt., Lord Chancellor of England.

In full humble wise meekly sheweth and complaineth — — — and brethren of the hospital of St. Leonard's in York That where one William Burghe sometime Warden of the Hospital and having the whole Rule there under the Master at that time being absent was possessed of one benefice in the shire of Nottingham called Abillesthorppe paying out of the same one annual or a yearly corrody of 6*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* unto one Antony Sayntlynger during the life of Antony, which William Burgh having the power in the Hospital as aforesaid moved and commanded your orators then being brethren there to be bounden unto Anthony by their common convent seal for the sure payment of the corrody yearly during the life of him Antony which they then did not nor durst not refuse but through his extremity sealed and delivered the writing obligatory for assurance of the premises And at that time William Burgh promised to put in sufficient pledge to the hospital for their discharge And caused one obligation to be made in his own name with other gentlemen in the County named therein with a condition as aforesaid and caused [? *torn*] one John Acclom to seal the same which he William did receive the same and did lock it in a chest appertaining to the Hospital and after that done, made one Christopher Burghe Clerk now parson of Spenythorn and Haxwell in the County of York his executor and died, after whose death the brethren of one assent and consent did open the chest and looked for the specialty of William Burghe and other according to his promise to have been made sealed and delivered after the due order of the law which specialty they did find colorably sealed with the hands of John Acclom and with no more by reason whereof your orators are and ever hath been charged with the yearly payment of 6*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in 'dissaie' of William Burghe Amongst other unlawful acts by him committed and done which are not a little to the impoverishing of your poor orators for ever unless your gracious remedy therein be shewed — — — [*no remedy by the common law — — — Plea for writs* sub pena] — — —

Pledges : John Fenton of London Sherman.
Thos. Maltman of the same yeoman.
Maunsell.
— — — in the Quindene of Easter next.

E.C.P. 694. 8. [*English*]

Densill n.

The answer of Christopher Burghe Clerk to the bill of complaint of the Master and brethren of the Hospital of St. Leonard in York.

The said Christopher by protestation not knowing any matter in this bill contained to be true for answer he saith that the bill of complaint for divers causes in the same apparent is uncertain and insufficient in the law to be answered unto. And the matter therein contained craftily feigned and imagined to put Christopher to vexatious troubles and costs and to none other intent and that he by the order of the law oweth not here in this Court thereunto to be compelled to make answer Wherefore for the insufficiency of the bill of complaint Christopher prayeth that the bill may abate and — — — [*that he may be dismissed with costs*].

York, College of Vicars Choral.

173. E.C.P. 60. 111. [*English*]

[A.D. 1481 or 1482].

To — — — Thomas the Archbishop of York and Chancellor of England.

Sheweth unto your most reverend fatherhood your humble orators the Subchanter and the vicars of your church of York how the last year, John Hagge and Michael White being the Sheriffs of the City of York, one Thomas Johnson Sergeant unto them laying hands of one old brother of ours called Sir John Donanby, three score years of age and more, being in the City at convenient time of the day, and put him in such fear that he was glad to pay unto him 20*s*. without any cause reasonable, And for so much as Thomas was compelled by the Mayor of the City that time being to restore the same as thing taken by extortion against good conscience the Sheriffs and Thomas and other their servants maligned against us your orators at many times and places and lay in wait to have put us to rebuke and villainy; then seeing that they might not have any of us in their reasonable danger, Thomas lay in

wait of one of our brethren called Sir Robert Gillow, being in time of winter at supper with one William Welles Alderman of the City, and at his peaceable coming homeward in the open street having a lantern light, laid hands of him and by night brought him first unto the Sheriffs and then by their commandment unto the most slanderous prison of the City called the Kidcote, Where the Sheriffs did keep him all that night and of the morrow to 10 of the clock without any cause reasonable, taking by their might from him 2*s*. 6*d*. of money being in his purse and a baslard price 2*s*. And over the same during the time of their office put us your orators dwelling within the City in that danger in such fear that we durst not at any time go about our lawful business in any part of the City, not only to our great hurt and discomfort but also to the dishonour of your Church and all other ministers of the same; And where John Hogge and Michael White hath often times been instantly desired by the Mayor of the City then being and of late by Richard York now[1] Mayor of the same and others to make a due amends for their trespass and wrongs aforesaid, they not weighing the King's laws, the might honour nor displeasure of your most reverend Fatherhood, list not to be agreeable unto the same in any wise; Wherefore we most humbly beseeches your good grace by reverence of God aswell in consideration of that, as we be poor ministers of your Church and hath great labour and business thereof, it be to our comfort in daily attendance and maintaining God's service in the same and hath our place standing in danger of the officers of the City and may in respect thereof suffer hereafter greater inconvenience if these injuries not punished should run to evil example of other officers, which yearly are exchanged and among such exchange often times some indisposed person may have rule, as of it we have none other succour than grace of your lordship wherein our most comfort and trust resteth the rather because it pleased your lordship heretofore to command us at time of our needs to make supplication to you and none other, Well please the same to direct the King's writs of *Sub pena* unto John Hagge and Michael White and Thomas Johnson giving them in commandment to appear tofore you — — — [*etc.*] — — —to take by your good grace for their punishment as may be to fearful example of other indisposed persons and to the comfort and surety of us your orators and other ministers of your Church. And we shall pray — — — [*etc.*]

Pledges for prosecution : John Holme of London, smith.
Willm. Roos of the same, yeoman.

— — — in the Octave of Michaelmas.

[1] Richard Yorke was Mayor in A.D. 1469, and 1482; John Hagge and Michael White were Sheriffs in 1480; the date of this Plea is therefore 1482.

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